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SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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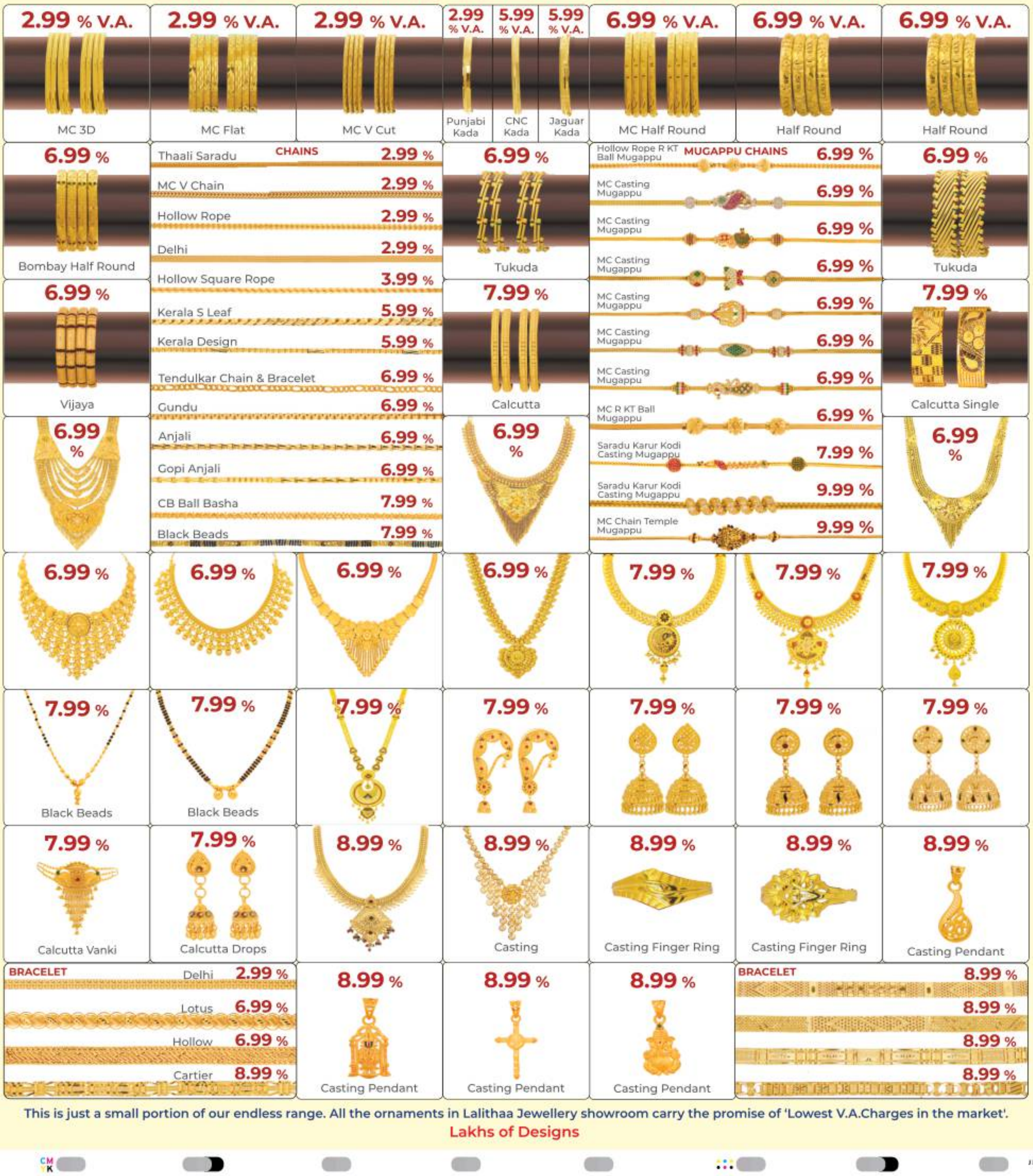

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Rain loses intensity but Kerala remains on edge as rivers breach banks
page 9

'Self rule' proposal still the most workable way in Kashmir: Mehbooba
page 13

SC says it may loosen the restrictive grip of 51-year-old abortion law
page 14

Bajrang, Sakshi and Deepak win gold; Sreeshankar silver
page 17

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NEARBY

Puneeth to be conferred Karnataka Ratna

BENGALURU

Inaugurating the Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Friday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the State's highest civilian honour, 'Karnataka Ratna' will be conferred on Puneeth Rajkumar posthumously during Kannada Rajyotsava celebrated on November 1.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

PROPERTY PLUS ▸ PAGE 6

RBI raises rates, vows nimble policy

Policy repo rate raised by 50 basis points to 5.4%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

With inflation remaining at 'elevated levels', the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India unanimously decided to raise the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.4%.

"Inflation is projected to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6% through the first three quarters of 2022-23, entailing the risk of destabilising inflation expectations and triggering second round effects," the MPC said in a statement, explaining the rationale for its decision on Friday. "Given the elevated level of inflation and resilience in domestic economic activity... further calibrated monetary policy action is needed to contain inflationary pressures, pull back headline inflation within the tolerance band closer to the target, and keep inflation expectations anchored so as to ensure that growth is sustained," it added.

The MPC also said it would remain focused on "withdrawal of accommodation" to ensure that inflation remains within the target, while supporting growth.

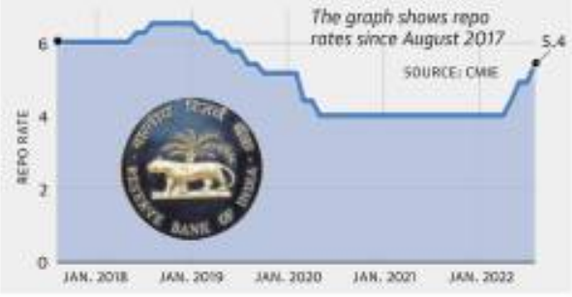
The RBI retained its inflation and GDP growth projections for the current fiscal year ending in March 2023 at 6.7% and 7.2%, respectively.

Addressing a press conference, Governor Shaktikanta Das said the RBI would use a "whatever-it-takes" approach to ensure a safe and soft landing for the economy despite the uncertainties.

The policy response to the unfolding economic situation would be "calibrated, measured and nimble", Mr. Das said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Steady rise | The repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — increased to 5.4%, crossing the 5% mark after 29 months



China sanctions Pelosi, suspends key U.S. talks

Beijing continues live fire drills in 6 regions around Taiwan

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China on Friday said it would sanction U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her visit to Taiwan this week, as well as cancel or suspend eight key dialogue mechanisms with the U.S.

The measures came as the Chinese military continued for a second day its live fire drills in six regions surrounding Taiwan. The military exercises, which have effectively blockaded the waters and airspace in the six regions and resulted in major disruptions to shipping and flights to Taiwan, will continue until Sunday.

Taiwan's Military of National Defence said it had tracked 13 Chinese naval vessels and 68 PLA (People's Liberation Army) aircraft crossing the median line, calling it "highly provocative".

China's Foreign Ministry said Ms. Pelosi had "insisted on visiting China's Taiwan region" in "disregard of China's grave concerns and firm opposition". "In response to Pelosi's egregious provocation," a statement said, "China decides to adopt sanctions on Pelosi and her immediate family members in accordance with relevant laws of the People's Republic of China." The statement did not specify what exactly the sanctions would entail.

Show of strength: A PLA aircraft taking off for military exercises in the waters around Taiwan. •REUTERS

Envoy summoned

The visit has also brought wider ramifications for China-U.S. relations. Washington on Friday said it had summoned the Chinese envoy, Qin Gang, and issued a demarche over China's military exercises, which have for the first time seen the Chinese military fire missiles over Taiwan.

Beijing said it would cancel three key bilateral military dialogue mechanisms and suspend five others. The three cancelled dialogues – a Theatre Commanders meet, Defence Policy Coordination Talks, and talks under the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) – underlined the further eroding trust between the two militaries and the closure of channels that were designed to increase communication.

Beijing said it would also suspend bilateral talks on climate change, as well as put on hold cooperation on the repatriation of illegal immigrants, legal assistance in criminal matters, transnational crimes, and counternarcotics. China's State media on Friday continued to highlight the military's exercises, and reported that the PLA had sent an aircraft carrier group featuring at least one nuclear-powered submarine to the drills.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

PELOSI'S STAND ▸ PAGE 15

Cong. holds protests, Rahul alleges 'death of democracy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On a day when the Congress organised nationwide protests against price rise, unemployment and imposition of goods and services tax (GST) on essential commodities, former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday said India was witnessing the 'death of democracy'.

Anybody who raised people's issues and stood up against the "onset of dictatorship is viciously attacked and put in jail", he said.

The issue also forced adjournments in both Houses of Parliament as Congress members registered their protest. They not only hit the streets but were also engaged in dramatic stand-offs with the police outside the Parliament complex and the AICC headquarters.

Priyanka Gandhi climbing over a police barricade in New Delhi. •PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

SHAH SEES APPEASEMENT BID ▸ PAGE 12

Dentist throws daughter from balcony

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a shocking incident, a woman allegedly threw her four-year-old daughter from the fourth floor of their residential apartment and later faked an attempt to end her life in Sampangiramanagar on Thursday.

The CCTV camera at the apartment complex captured the incident and the police arrested Sushma Bharadwaj, charging her with murder.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

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My passion for racing and Formula 1 comes with lots of time spent away from [family]. Committing to my passion the way I did and the way I think is right no longer goes side by side with my wish to be a great father and husband

SEBASTIAN VETTEL

When I talk about the journey that I've felt I've experienced in this sport and often feeling that it's been relatively lonely. he's one of the few people that's made it not feel lonely. I think he's one of the greatest people we've seen in this sport

LEWIS HAMILTON

GETTY IMAGES

MOST F1 WORLD TITLES

Michael Schumacher	7
Lewis Hamilton	7
Juan Manuel Fangio	5
Alain Prost	4
Sebastian Vettel	4

MOST F1 RACE WINS

Lewis Hamilton	103
Michael Schumacher	91
Sebastian Vettel	53
Alain Prost	51
Ayrton Senna	41

The Vettel legacy: stylistically debatable, statistically undeniable

Many will have reservations about placing him in the top echelon of drivers. But his career numbers compare favourably with F1's greatest

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Last Thursday, ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix, social media was abuzz after Sebastian Vettel opened an Instagram account.

The four-time world champion was the last holdout on the paddock, the only Formula One driver without a social media account. So, when the reticent Vettel created one, there was curiosity about what was to come next.

Minutes later, in a lengthy video message, the 35-year-old called time on his illustrious career. Saying he would walk away at the end of the season, Vettel offered a rare sneak peek into his life, saying his priority now was his family.

The German lineage

Michael Schumacher's dominance had opened the door for a plethora of German drivers, but nobody came close to taking the great man's mantle until a fresh-faced Vettel burst onto the scene in the mid-noughties.

A point-scoring debut with BMW Sauber, as a stand-in for Robert Kubica at the 2007 US GP, led to Red Bull giving him the Toro Rosso seat.

A sensational performance at the Italian GP in 2008, his first full season in F1, offered a glimpse of what he was about. On a wet weekend in a back-of-the-field car, he controlled a mixed-conditions race from pole to take the chequered flag.

Schumi comparison

With a German wunderkind mastering the rain just two years after Schumacher's first retirement, it was no surprise that the 'Baby Schumi' moniker was foisted on him. It was a testament to his talent and mentality that he was not fazed; indeed, he revelled in being compared to his childhood hero.

Once David Coulthard retired from his Red Bull seat in 2008, it was a no-brainer that Vettel would progress to the senior team. In 2009 he justified that promotion by finishing second in the championship.

Quickly he established supremacy over the experienced Mark Webber; it would form the basis of a frosty relationship. In Vettel, Red Bull had a driver it had guided through the junior ranks. The German was protected by Dr. Helmut Marko, who called the shots as an advisor to the team.

This security helped Vettel demolish the record books, winning four consecutive titles (2010-13) – the first, at 23, made him the youngest world champion.

The 2011 season illustrated Vettel's unique talents. It was the era of using exhaust gases to generate more rear downforce. Design genius Adrian Newey exploited the concept's potential to produce one of the most dominant cars in the sport's history. But it needed Vettel to harness it.

The car demanded a counter-intuitive driving style that Vettel adapted to by pressing on the throttle early into the corner when the rear was nervous, using the exhaust gases to provide stability. This was a style that Webber just couldn't get his head around, winning only one race to Vettel's 11 in the same car.

After a close-fought title win in 2012, Vettel was at his dominant best in 2013, clinching 13 races, tying Schumacher's record for the most wins in a season. He also won nine in a row, a record all his own.

But even as he broke these records, Vettel's achievements came with asterisks and a certain contempt because he had a dominant car; rivals Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton didn't and felt in similar machinery they would be winning too.

There were also disparaging comments about his clumsy wheel-to-wheel driving, with some saying he knew only to win from pole. However, such criticisms overlook the fact that when he had a car of his liking, he was mighty in qualifying and an expert at converting pole to victory.

While he did benefit from a good car, people tend to overlook his tremendous work ethic in the pursuit of excellence. When Pirelli joined the sport in 2011, he went the extra mile to understand the tyre and benefited from it.

Student of the game

In fact, he is a great student of the sport, with a love for its history and traditions, which meant he had an appreciation of what he was achieving. A few years ago, on F1's YouTube channel, he was the only driver who could name all the champions dating back to 1950.

His cheeky sense of humour and fondness for British pop culture and dry wit made him a popular figure off the track, but he could be ruthless on it. Perhaps the most striking instance came in 2013, when he disobeyed a team order and overtook Webber – seemingly payback for Webber's aggression in the final race of 2012.

After the US Grand Prix in 2013, Vettel told his team on radio to enjoy the moment because it wouldn't last forever.

Dominance ends

The words proved prophetic. In 2014, F1 introduced new rules, kickstarting the hybrid era, and Red Bull's dominance ended. Vettel also struggled against new teammate Daniel Ricciardo, who outshone the four-time reigning champion.

Just as he was having his first real test, Vettel saw an opening at Ferrari – Alonso fell out with the bosses – and grabbed it. He had always wanted to follow in the footsteps of his idol Schumacher and win in the iconic scarlet car.

Vettel's time at Ferrari was disappointing, even with two runner-up finishes; Mercedes' dominance proved unbreakable.

It wasn't until 2017 that Ferrari had a championship-contending car, but the team's race operations left a lot to be desired. Vettel often had to overrule team strategies and never got the support he enjoyed at Red Bull. It did not help that the people who recruited him were shown the door before he even started his Ferrari stint.

The pressure to deliver for Ferrari got to him and mistakes slowly started creeping into his game. Indeed, errors – at Singapore and Baku in 2017, at the German and Italian GPs in 2018 – significantly hurt his title ambitions in those two seasons.

Ferrari blues

In 2017, he had led the standings after 12 rounds but Mercedes and Hamilton came back strongly after the summer break to seal the title. Ferrari was even more competitive through 2018, but Vettel couldn't manage the consistency to capitalise.

The forlorn image of Vettel near his stricken car in Hockenheim (2018) has come to define his Ferrari spell. In 2019, another upstart, this time Charles Leclerc, blew him away. It was enough to convince Ferrari to dump him after the 2020 season.

Although he managed to work his way to a two-year deal at Aston Martin Racing, the team's lack of competitiveness and Vettel's patchy driving have contributed to a mediocre stint, far from the heights he once enjoyed.

While his racing standards have dropped, Vettel has assumed a bigger role off the track, voicing his views on such significant issues as diversity, inclusion and the environment.

He has been supportive of Hamilton's efforts to take the knee before races and has become a vocal ally of the LGBTQ+ community, frequently wearing Pride colours during the race weekend in countries that are hostile to these issues.

Vettel has also championed organic farming and bee conservation. Earlier this year, he joined the *BBC Question Time* programme where he spoke about the need for investing more in renewable energy.

Remarkably candid

When asked if he was being hypocritical, as part of a sport that burns fuel and criss-crosses continents, leaving a huge carbon footprint, Vettel candidly agreed and spoke about the moral dilemma.

While the German's racing success was frontloaded and his late years have been underwhelming, it would be unfair to minimise his achievements. That's largely recency bias at work.

Although not everyone will place him in the top echelon of drivers, alongside Fangio, Senna, Schumacher and Hamilton, Vettel's stats are beyond reproach. When the dust settles in Abu Dhabi later this year, he will bow out with the third-most Grand Prix wins and the joint-third-most championship titles.

That is a legacy he can be justifiably proud of.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	7,625	18
2	Alexander Zverev	25	6,850	18
3	Rafael Nadal	36	6,165	9
4	Carlos Alcaraz	19	5,035	17
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	5,000	22
6	Novak Djokovic	35	4,770	11
7	Casper Ruud	23	4,685	24
8	Andrey Rublev	24	3,575	23
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,445	24
10	Jannik Sinner	20	3,395	23
11	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,015	21
12	Cameron Norrie	26	2,893	24
13	Taylor Fritz	24	2,825	23
14	Matteo Berrettini	26	2,430	17
15	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,245	24

Top Indians ▸

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 231 ▼ 2 spots

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 327 ▼ 17 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,396	16
2	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,476	21
3	Maria Sakkari	27	4,190	20
4	Paula Badosa	24	4,030	24
5	Ons Jabeur	27	4,010	18
6	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,267	19
7	Jessica Pegula	28	3,087	16
8	Garbine Muguruza	28	2,886	19
9	Danielle Collins	28	2,743	16
10	Emma Raducanu	19	2,717	22
11	Coco Gauff	18	2,647	16
12	Daria Kasatkina	25	2,635	21
13	Belinda Bencic	25	2,635	19
14	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,534	18
15	Karolina Pliskova	30	2,477	16

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 333 ▲ 7 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 382 ◆ NO CHANGE

F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	258	8
2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	178	3
3	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	173	1
4	George Russell	Mercedes	158	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	156	1
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	146	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	76	0
8	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	58	0
9	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	46	0
10	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	41	0
11	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	22	0
12	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	19	0
13	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	16	0
14	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	16	0
15	Mick Schumacher	Haas	12	0
16	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
17	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	5	0
18	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	4	0
19	Alex Albon	Williams	3	0
20	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0
21	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0

Max Verstappen

Charles Leclerc

F1 Constructors' standings

POS	TEAM	POINTS	WINS	PODIUMS
1	Red Bull	431	9	16
2	Ferrari	334	4	11
3	Mercedes	304	0	11
4	Alpine	99	0	0
5	McLaren	95	0	1
6	Alfa Romeo	51	0	0
7	Haas	34	0	0
8	AlphaTauri	27	0	0
9	Aston Martin	20	0	0
10	Williams	3	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Viktor Axelsen	121,606	38
2	Kento Momota	112,704	28
3	Anders Antonsen	98,300	35
4	Chou Tien Chen	93,776	41
5	Lee Zii Jia	91,578	42
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	89,279	38
7	Jonatan Christie	82,812	38
8	Chen Long	80,090	16
9	Loh Kean Yew	79,594	33
10	Lakshya Sen	75,874	39
11	Ng Ka Long Angus	72,007	38
12	Rasmus Gemke	70,551	36
13	K. Srikanth	68,731	42
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	66,838	31
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	66,061	36

Top Indians ▸

Lakshya Sen
Rank 10

K. Srikanth
Rank 13

Badminton Women's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Akane Yamaguchi	111,813	37
2	Tai Tzu Ying	110,845	26
3	An Se Young	104,403	45
4	Chen Yu Fei	103,606	29
5	Carolina Marin	100,380	24
6	Nozomi Okuhara	95,960	26
7	P.V. Sindhu	95,518	42
8	Ratchanok Intanon	89,349	38
9	He Bing Jiao	82,264	32
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	78,265	43
11	Wang Zhi Yi	75,238	30
12	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	70,294	49
13	Michelle Li	70,130	42
14	Sayaka Takahashi	66,573	32
15	Mia Blichfeldt	63,679	27

Top Indians ▸

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 7

Saina Nehwal
Rank 25

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Joe Root	923	923
2	Marnus Labuschagne	885	936
3	Babar Azam	874	874
4	Steve Smith	848	947
5	Rishabh Pant	801	801
6	Kane Williamson	786	919
7	Usman Khawaja	766	779
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	746	782
9	Rohit Sharma	746	813
10	Jonny Bairstow	742	772

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	891	914
2	R. Ashwin	842	904
3	Shaheen Afridi	836	836
4	Jasprit Bumrah	828	835
5	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
6	James Anderson	811	903
7	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
8	Kemar Roach	756	780
9	Neil Wagner	747	859
10	Mitchell Starc	739	806

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	892	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	815	815
3	R. van der Dussen	789	796
4	Quinton de Kock	784	813
5	Virat Kohli	767	911
6	Rohit Sharma	763	885
7	Ross Taylor	744	841
8	David Warner	737	880
9	Jonny Bairstow	732	796
10	Aaron Finch	715	798

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	697	770
2	Jasprit Bumrah	682	841
3	Shaheen Afridi	681	688
4	Josh Hazlewood	679	733
5	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	712
6	Mehidi Hasan	672	725
7	Matt Henry	663	691
8	Mohammad Nabi	657	657
9	Rashid Khan	651	806
10	Chris Woakes	640	711

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	818	896
2	Suryakumar Yadav	816	816
3	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
4	Aiden Markram	788	796
5	Dawid Malan	731	915
6	Aaron Finch	716	900
7	Devon Conway	668	784
8	Pathum Nissanka	661	689
9	Nicholas Pooran	652	667
10	Martin Guptill	643	793

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Josh Hazlewood	792	806
2	Tabraiz Shamsi	728	821
3	Rashid Khan	709	816
4	Adil Rashid	702	746
5	Adam Zampa	698	743
6	Akeal Hosein	680	680
7	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	797
8	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	653	665
9	Anrich Nortje	651	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	647	647

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MYSURU: 2929/1, L19/1, Bangalore Nilgiri Road, Lakshkar Mohalla, Near Suburb Bus Stop, Ph: 0821-2401441/443.

CCB unearths stamp paper racket, arrests 11

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Special Enquiry Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Friday busted a stamp paper racket and arrested a gang of 11 who were operating from the typing pool of Kandaya Bhavan, situated close to the Deputy Commissioner's office .

Based on a tip-off, a team of police, led by DCP S.D. Sharanappa, raided the shop and recovered 2,664 fake stamp papers, some of them dating back to the Mysore Maharaja period, and stampers, computers, printers and seals totally worth ₹5.11 lakh. The police have also seized fake stamp papers of old dates from 1990, 1995, 2002 and 2009 with fake GPA details to claim the ownership of the properties in and around Bengaluru.

The accused were identified as Vishwanath, Karthik, Venkatesh, Shamraju, Shashidhar, Kariyappa, Ravishankar, Shivashankarappa, Gureushankar, Raghava N. and Kishore. They would prepare the stamp papers of old dates and sell the same to land grabbers who want to file civil suits to claim the ownership of the property and later clinch a deal with the genuine landlords through out of court settlements. They would sell the stamp papers for prices depending on the value of the property and the dates, a police officer said.

"These fake stamp papers prepared by the accused are being used in various government offices to cheat and claim benefits since for the last few years. The accused even have network of stamp paper vendors at taluk offices in and around the city to run their racket," the officer added. They have been taken into custody and investigations are on to ascertain their network and beneficiaries.

Two of attention-diversion gang nabbed in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The R.M. Nagar police on Friday arrested two members of a robbery gang and recovered ₹4 lakh which they, along with their associates, had stolen from the boot of a parked scooter in front of an ATM of SBI near Horamavu Main Road on June 15.

The accused have been identified as Vijesh and Gopi from Tamil Nadu, while the others are on the run. According to the police, the modus operandi of the accused was to wait for people who would come to the bank to withdraw cash and follow them to steal the cash.

The victim, Albert Joseph, had withdrawn ₹4 lakh and kept it in the boot of his scooter. On the way, he stopped the scooter near an ATM to withdraw some more cash. While the victim was busy in the ATM, the accused broke open the seat, took the cash and escaped. The incident came to light when he returned to his scooter and found the cash missing.

The police analysed the CCTV footage and identified the accused through the bike they were using and arrested them. The duo was taken into custody to ascertain their possible involvement in other cases, while efforts are on to track down the other members of the gang.

Music programme

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

MHS Events will present 'Ya Dil Ki Suno.....' a Bollywood-based retro music show on August 6. Singers at the music programme who will be rendering songs are Sagnik Sen from Kolkata, Srijit from Mumbai, Priyanka Basu from Ahmedabad, Shruthi Raghavendran, Shekhar Iyer, Rajasree Saha, and Niyazuddin Niyaz Ramakanta from Bengaluru. Music will be scored by Pradeep Patkar and team. Part of the proceeds will go to musicians who faced great setbacks owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, MHS Events, in a release, said.

The event will be held at ADA Rangamandira on J.C. Road from 5.30 p.m. Tickets are available on Book My Show, the release stated.

Puneeth Rajkumar to be conferred Karnataka Ratna

CM makes announcement after inaugurating flower show at Lalbagh, which resumed after two years

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Thousands of floral enthusiasts gathered at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Friday as the Independence Day flower show was inaugurated, making a comeback after two pandemic-hit years. First-time visitors to staunch annual visitors, all spent time observing the rare and exotic flowers on display. However, the floral sculptures and statues of late actors Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar were the centre of attraction at the show.

The 75th Amrit Mahotsav Independence Day horticultural flower show at Lalbagh Glass House was inaugurated on Friday. Shivarajkumar, Geetha Shivarajkumar, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, and Raghavendra Rajkumar visited the show. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Inaugurating the event, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the State's highest civilian honour, 'Karnataka Ratna' will be conferred on Puneeth Rajkumar posthumously, on November 1, Kannada Rajyotsava.

"A small committee will be formed to make preparations for the award-presentation ceremony. Members of Dr. Rajkumar's family will also be included as members of the committee. We all together will present the award posthumously to Puneeth in a highly dignified manner," he said.

He also said the celebration of 75 years of Independence has made the flower show even more attractive and that it will attract lakhs of visitors over the course of the next few days.

For many, the statue of Puneeth Rajkumar with his parents became a selfie spot while for others the statue depicting a scene from Rajkumar's movie *Mayura*, was the favourite. The visitors also hummed along to various tunes from the two actors' movies which were played during the show. Many fans also expressed their love and compassion towards the late actors by painting portraits of them.

Rare variants of Orchids, Coleus, and Anthurium caught the eyes of many visitors on the first day. "I have been attending this biannual festival since 2009. During the pandemic years, I was eagerly waiting for the flower show to return. The music, the ambience and the flowers make the garden look like a paradise," said Ramesh Dutt, a retired English professor at the show.

An international visitor from France, Antony De Sojanar, a retired military officer, said, "It's my first time in Bengaluru, but I had not seen such colourful flowers even in Europe. I am also excited about the other activities which, I am informed, will be happening in the following days, like Bonsai and the Dutch flower shows. So, I'm really looking forward to it."

Members of Dr. Rajkumar's family, including Shiva Rajkumar, Raghavendra Rajkumar and Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar were present during the inauguration of the flower show.

(With inputs from Leesha K. Nair and Shuvam Roy)

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E-AUCTION FOR ADVERTISING RIGHTS

Sl. No.	Description of Assets	Lot End Date & Time
1	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 12822/12821 of area 640 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1030 hrs.
2	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 12898/12897 & 22879/22880 of area 641 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1040 hrs.
3	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 12819/12820, 20895/20896 & 12579/12880 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1050 hrs.
4	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 20823/20824, 22835/22836 & 12843/12844 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1100 hrs.
5	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 20861/20862 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1110 hrs.
6	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 12893/12894 of area 620 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1120 hrs.
7	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 22883/22884 & 12882/12881 of area 640 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1130 hrs.
8	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 22882/22881 & 22871/22872 of area 576 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1140 hrs.
9	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 22866/22865 & 20813/20814 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1150 hrs.
10	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 18477/18478 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1200 hrs.
11	Advertising through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior surface coaches of Train no. 12830/12829 & 12845/12846 of area 672 sqmts per rake	17.08.2022 1200 hrs.
12	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 114 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Talcher station	19.08.2022 1030 hrs.
13	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 50 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Talcher Road station	19.08.2022 1040 hrs.
14	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 192 sqft & ordinary board of 200 sqft at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Kendujhargarh station	19.08.2022 1050 hrs.
15	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 330 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Dhenkanal station	19.08.2022 1100 hrs.
16	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 100 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Angul station	19.08.2022 1110 hrs.
17	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 420 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Jajpur Keonjhar Road station	19.08.2022 1120 hrs.
18	Advertisement Rights Contract through Non-Digital Media of area 290 sqft glow sign boards at station building, platform, waiting hall, booking office concourse area of Bhadrak station	19.08.2022 1130 hrs.
19	Sole Advertisement Rights Contract as Out-of-Home package for display of Hoardings for a total area of 13881 sqft at cluster of 9 nos. of Railway stations at Paradeep-Angul section via Salagaon (excluding Cuttack Railway station)	16.08.2022 1030 hrs.
20	Sole Advertisement Rights Contract as Out-of-Home package for display of hoardings for a total area of 17240 sqft at cluster of 7 nos. of Railway stations (Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Kenduapada, Kendujhargarh, Nayagarh, Naranpur & Harichandanpur) at Bhadrak-Kendujhargarh section	16.08.2022 1040 hrs.
21	Advertisement on Digital mode (Dual Display Information System) at Bhubaneswar, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Puri, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Palasa, Balugaon Stations	20.08.2022 1030 hrs.
22	Installation of ATM at Cuttack, Ninakanpur, Brahmapur, Paradeep, Talcher Road, Sompeta, Mancheswar, Mesmandali, Bhubaneswar, Bhusandpur, Kaliapera Ghat, Ichchapuram, Baitarani Road, Khalikot, Harichandanpur, Kendujhargarh	16.08.2022 1800 hrs.
23	Installation of ATM at Puri, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar	17.08.2022 1050 hrs.

Lot Start Date & Time: 17.08.2022, 1000 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 to 11 & 23), **19.08.2022, 1000 hrs.** (for Sl. No. 12 to 18), **16.08.2022, 1000 hrs.** (for Sl. No. 19 & 20), **16.08.2022, 1500 hrs.** (for Sl. No. 22) & **20.08.2022, 1000 hrs.** (for Sl. No. 21).

Complete details will be available at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

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GETTY IMAGES

Does 'Bazball' have the staying power to alter Test cricket's groove?

The brand of fearless, attacking cricket championed by England Test coach Brendon McCullum has made the world sit up and take notice. Can it be sustained and will others follow suit?

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

"Is he for real?"

That, said Matt Prior, was how his teammates reacted when new coach Andy Flower told them that he wanted them to become the first England Test side to be ranked World No. 1, within two years. It was not long after Ian Botham had advised England's think-tank to head to the Kingston harbour and sink into the deepest channel. The team had been shot out for 51 by the West Indies during the course of a series defeat and was scraping the bottom.

England, at the time, was ranked in the lower half of the ICC's Test table. Little wonder the players reacted the way they did when the coach spelt out his goal.

"Is he for real?"

Thirteen years later, England cricketers – and their fans – may be pondering the same question, this time about new Test coach Brendon McCullum. He has been in charge for only four Tests so far, but England has won all of them.

It is the style of those victories that has made the Kiwi the toast of English cricket.

England won chasing in all four Tests (against the reigning world Test champion and then the runner-up). The four chases were among the 13 highest in England's 145-year history. The highest came against India at Edgbaston last month.

In the Tests against New Zealand, England scored 279 for five at 3.53 runs an over at Lord's, 299 for five at 5.98 at Trent Bridge and 296 for three at 5.44 at Headingley. India posed a bigger challenge, but it was also met with ridiculous ease – 378 for three at 4.93.

Hot pursuit

Last year, India, forced to play an almost second-string eleven because of injuries, pulled off an even more stunning chase, against Australia at Brisbane. The visitors made 329 for seven at a rate of 3.39 runs per over to end Australia's unbeaten streak of 32 years at the Gabba.

The final day at Edgbaston may not have provided the thrills, twists and drama experienced at the Gabba – ah, that hook by debutant Washington Sundar off Pat Cummins – but the England top-order came up with one of the most authoritative chases in Test history. To post four wins on the trot, all successful pursuits of targets exceeding 270, is no mean task; it's unprecedented.

There were doubts, however, even from the staunchest English fans, about whether their team would be able to overpower India the way it did New Zealand, especially after conceding a lead of 132 in the first innings. But those clouds of apprehension began to disappear with the intent shown by the openers, Alex Lees and Zak Crawley.

> **I certainly wouldn't say that we've changed the face [of Test cricket]. All we try and do is play a brand of cricket which gives the guys the greatest amount of satisfaction and the best opportunity. We've also got an obligation to entertain**

Few expected Lees and Crawley, with just one fifty between them in seven Test innings this season and neither belonging to the Eoin Morgan school that revolutionised England's white-ball cricket, to go after the formidable Indian bowling. Fewer expected them to post the fastest hundred for the opening wicket in England's Test history.

The job may have been finished by Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow, but it was the way the openers batted that tells us more about the brand of Test cricket, termed – perhaps embarrassingly so for McCullum – 'Bazball' (derived from his nickname Baz).

How significant is this method – which, its critics might argue, borders on madness – for Test cricket, especially at a time when the ICC chairman has warned of a reduction in long-format games in the future? And will other teams try to emulate England?

Dav Whatmore, the former Australia Test batter who went on to become a World Cup-winning coach, thinks others might be tempted. He gives McCullum the credit.

"And he had no experience of coaching a Test side before, did he?" Whatmore tells *The Hindu* over phone. "His method of coaching has a lot to do with the way he used to bat. He was a decent player, wasn't he?"

McCullum's arrival in England was as well-timed as the strokes he played in the first innings of his final Test, which remains the fastest hundred in the format. England had lost the previous four series, which included a humiliating 4-0 drubbing in Australia, and the captain, Root, had resigned. Coach Chris Silverwood had stepped down after the Ashes debacle.

Indeed, the situation wasn't dissimilar to the time Flower took over in 2009, when captain Kevin Pietersen quit and coach Peter Moores was sacked. Under the Zimbabwean, England became the No. 1 Test team two years later.

But the method Flower used to transform the side came in for criticism; he was seen as a hard task-master, who took the players to a boot camp in Bavaria so gruelling that some ribs were broken. McCullum, on the other hand, is reportedly planning an adventure holiday, featuring golf and laid-back activities, ahead of the Test series in New Zealand next year.

McCullum was fortunate that he began his job at a time when two England batters, Root and Bairstow, were finding the form of their lives. It was their unbroken fourth-wicket partnerships that took their team home against India and in the final Test against New Zealand.

While Root, more of an orthodox red-ball batter, played the lap shot and the reverse sweep with abandon, it was the ruthlessness of Bairstow's bat that made the fourth-innings targets look smaller than they actually were. In four Tests, Bairstow averaged 102.33 and had a strike-rate of 100.16. He entertained.

Captain Ben Stokes, who has had a dream start, agrees with McCullum that the entertainment aspect is important. Root said the skipper wants all of them to be rockstars.

It is not that Test batting hasn't rocked before. Adam Gilchrist and Virender Sehwag finished their long Test careers with strike-rates of above 80. But, their approach wasn't shared by all of their teammates.

As for McCullum's approach to Test cricket, it will be interesting to see how it shapes up going forward, especially when England travels. And it has to be noted that the Test pitches so far this summer in England have seemed better to bat on than in the past. It was not just with the bat that England attacked though, but with the ball as well.

> There's actually quite a bit of thought that goes into how the guys manufacture their performances and when they put pressure on bowlers and which bowlers they put pressure on. There's also times where they've absorbed pressure beautifully

Importance of conviction

Sujith Somasunder, former India batter and sports psychologist who is heading education at the National Cricket Academy, feels it takes a lot of conviction to play Test cricket the way England does under McCullum.

"It is much more mental than technical, as sport at the highest level always is, but it is more so in Tests because a game can be lost in a session, and there are 15 of them," he says. "The decision in high-stakes scenarios may be taken by the coach but it has to percolate through the entire team. The players know it is okay to lose and they will not be blamed and the coach will take the responsibility."

A couple of weeks after England's victory against India, Pakistan chased down the 342-run target set by Sri Lanka at Galle in the first Test, though at a relatively sombre run-rate of 2.70. This year there have already been seven instances of a team chasing more than 200 to win a Test, equalling the 2008 record – with five more months remaining.

As India, England and Pakistan have shown, there is glory in a successful chase. We may not see too many repeats of the Roseau Test against the West Indies in 2011, when India settled for a draw to secure the series.

That doesn't mean a draw isn't desirable. In fact, there is nothing in sport quite like the last ball being played out, sometimes by No. 11, to save a Test from a lost position.

The fourth innings of a Test match needn't always be an extension of T20 (the format that has clearly made the modern batter more adventurous). If the England batters need inspiration for Plan B – when they need to bat out time – they won't have to look beyond their dressing room. McCullum had batted for 775 minutes to save the Wellington Test against India in 2014.

Is he for real?

GAME THEORY

Vaulting to greatness

At the tender age of 22, Armand Duplantis already has a strong case to be considered the best male pole vaulter of all time. With his gold at the recent World Championships in Eugene, during which he broke his own world record, the Swede added to his dominance of the lists of the highest-ever vaults (indoor and outdoor). Sergey Bubka, who until very recently was regarded as the greatest pole vaulter ever, features prominently as well

TOP OUTDOOR MARKS

Armand Duplantis

Mark (in metres)	Competitor	Venue	Date
6.21	Armand Duplantis	Eugene (USA)	24 Jul 2022
6.16	Armand Duplantis	Stockholm	30 Jun 2022
6.15	Armand Duplantis	Rome	17 Sep 2020
6.14	Sergey Bubka	Sestriere (Italy)	31 Jul 1994
6.13	Sergey Bubka	Tokyo	19 Sep 1992
6.12	Sergey Bubka	Padova (Italy)	30 Aug 1992
6.11	Sergey Bubka	Dijon (France)	13 Jun 1992
6.10	Sergey Bubka	Malmo (Sweden)	05 Aug 1991
6.10	Armand Duplantis	Hengelo (The Netherlands)	06 Jun 2021
6.09	Sergey Bubka	Formia (Italy)	08 Jul 1991

TOP INDOOR MARKS

Mark (in metres)	Competitor	Venue	Date
6.20	Armand Duplantis	Belgrade	20 Mar 2022
6.19	Armand Duplantis	Belgrade	07 Mar 2022
6.18	Armand Duplantis	Glasgow (Scotland)	15 Feb 2020
6.17	Armand Duplantis	Torun (Poland)	08 Feb 2020
6.16	Renaud Lavillenie	Donetsk (Ukraine)	15 Feb 2014
6.15	Sergey Bubka	Donetsk (Ukraine)	21 Feb 1993
6.14	Sergey Bubka	Lievin (France)	13 Feb 1993
6.13	Sergey Bubka	Berlin	21 Feb 1992
6.12	Sergey Bubka	Grenoble (France)	23 Mar 1991
6.11	Sergey Bubka	Donetsk (Ukraine)	19 Mar 1991

Sergey Bubka

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

PICTURE THIS

TIM DE WAELE/GETTY IMAGES

The ultimate winner

Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics looks to score against the Philadelphia Warriors in an NBA game at the Philadelphia Convention Hall in this 1959 photograph.

Russell, who passed away on Sunday (July 31) at the age of 88, won a record 11 NBA championships as the anchor of the all-conquering Celtics.

What's more, he did it in just 13 seasons between 1956 and 1969 – a staggering 84.6% win-rate! The last two of those 11 titles came as player-coach: he was the first Black head coach to win a championship in any major US sport.

His exploits, as well as his iconic rivalry with the great Wilt Chamberlain, revolutionised the NBA.

Russell also captained the gold-medal-winning US basketball team at the 1956 Summer Olympics.

The 6'10" Russell, widely regarded as one of the greatest to play the game, was a cerebral, innovative operator, who studied his rivals' patterns and tendencies.

Although not a high-volume scorer, he was a phenomenal shot-blocker, man-to-man defender and rebound artist, often securing the rebound himself to start a breakaway offence.

In 2011, Barack Obama awarded Russell the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his accomplishments on the court and in the civil rights movement.

State govt. releases ₹1,059 crore to road transport corporations

₹800 crore will be for clearing provident fund dues and the rest for fuel bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After the outbreak of the pandemic, the RTCs suffered huge revenue losses resulting in severe financial distress • FILE PHOTO

The four road transport corporations (RTCs), which are reeling under heavy losses owing to fuel prices and other operational costs, received a shot in the arm with the State government releasing ₹1,059 crore to them.

An order issued by the State government states that out of the financial assistance, ₹800 crore should be used for clearing provident fund dues and the rest of the amount to meet fuel bills. As per the order, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) received ₹330 crore, while the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) received assistance of ₹279 crore. North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) got sanctioned ₹320 crore, and ₹130 crore has been provided to the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

After the outbreak of the pandemic, the RTCs suffered huge revenue losses resulting in severe financial distress, and increasing fuel prices, staff cost and other expenses worsened their finances. The corporations failed to make statutory payment of provident funds (PF) and clear other dues. They had apprised the government that failing to pay the PF dues would result in facing legal action.

A senior RTC official said, "No doubt, the State government's financial aid is a big relief, but we fear that our losses will increase further as corporations spend major operational revenue for fuel expenses. Take the example of KSRTC; earlier, if the fare revenue was ₹9 crore per day, ₹3 crore would go to fuel, but now, it has increased up to ₹5 crore."

A BMTC official added, "The BMTC has a total liability of over ₹2,000 crore, out of which more than ₹1,000 crore is loan borrowed from financial institutions. There are fuel bills and PF payments need to be cleared. As per the government order, the financial aid will be used to clear PF dues and meet fuel expenses."

Six of family die in road accident in Gurmitkal taluk

STAFF REPORTER
YADGIR

The remains of the car that was involved in the accident near Arakera (K) village in Gurmitkal taluk of Yadgir district.

Six persons of a family, including a woman and a six-month-old child, were killed and one injured in an accident near Arakera (K) village in Gurmitkal taluk of Yadgir district late on Thursday night.

According to Superintendent of Police C.B. Vedamurthy, the accident occurred when the car, by which the family was returning to Yadgir after performing rituals at a dargah in Jathlapalli village in Kodangal of Telangana, had a head-on collision with a goods vehicle. Four people were killed on spot and two more breathed their last on the way to hospital. The victims have been identified as Imran, 22, Mohamad Nazar Hussain, 76, his wife Noorjahan Begam, 70, son Wazid Hussain, 32, daughter-in-law Heena, 30, and grandson Umeja. Of them, Heena and Imran hailed from Yadgir while the rest were residents of Hutti village in Lingsugur taluk of Raichur district. Fazil Hussain, 3, son of Wazid Hussain, has been shifted to a hospital in Kalaburagi. His condition is said to be stable.

The goods vehicle was transporting pipes to Gurmitkal from Yadgir. Mr. Vedamurthy said the staff of 112 ERSS vehicle shifted the injured to a hospital on time and retrieved the bodies from the vehicle amid heavy rain.

IN BRIEF

No power supply

BENGALURU

There will be power cuts on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the areas serviced from Sir M.V. 220/66/11Kv GIS EDC Station for condition monitoring works, such as Residency Road, Lavelle Road, Walton Road, etc.

Inter-State chain snatcher held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Mico Layout police on Friday arrested an inter-State notorious chain snatcher wanted by the police of three States.

The accused Amul Balasaab Shinde, 31 , using his professional bike riding skills, had created havoc in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with his chain-snatching spree before he entered the city in the last week of July and took the help of his associate Jitu Bora, the police said

R.S. Choudhari, Inspector, Mico Layout station, who tracked down the accused, said that Amul had stayed in a hotel room on Bannerghatta Road and tampered with the registration plate to hoodwink the police. He would move around the city to target women walking alone near parks in the evenings as even CCTV cameras could not capture the image due to bad light. Using this technique, the accused committed two chain snatchings back to back at Mico Layout and JP Nagar.

Based on the complaint, Mr. Choudhari analysed over 100 CCTV footage from reverse directions to identify his location. After zeroing in on this, he profiled the area and set up a watch team, who managed to pin the accused down finally .

The police recovered two chains worth ₹6.5 lakh from him, while efforts are on to track down his associate, who is presently on the run.

Out on bail

The accused had committed several chain snatches in Chennai and had been arrested. But he managed to come out on bail and came to the city and committed two offences before moving to other metros, the police added.

Teen regains sight with free advanced treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old boy from Kalaburagi, who was declared blind and given a blind certificate, has now got the gift of vision through a free advanced surgery and treatment at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

Ganesh (name changed), had been complaining of progressive worsening of vision in both eyes since he was 3. However, owing to financial constraints, his family could not get him timely treatment. He came to Sankara Eye Hospital in the city through the hospital's 'Gift of Vision' initiative. He was diagnosed with severe retinal detachment complications with numerous retinal angiomas and associated scarring, specific for a condition known as Von-Hippel Lindau disease (VHL).

VHL is a hereditary condition associated with tumours arising in multiple organs mainly in the brain, spinal cord and retina. This genetic disorder has a high risk of getting transmitted to the children. Doctors learnt that the boy's grandmother was the only surviving member of the family. His parents and two siblings had succumbed to the disease a few years ago. VHL can be catastrophic not only to the patient but also to the entire family.

After having made the diagnosis, a team of doctors under the supervision of Mahesh Shanmugam, Head - Ocular Oncology and Vitreoretinal diseases, at the hospital successfully performed the surgery for free. Through the surgery, the doctors fixed the complicated retinal detachment and also treated the multiple tumours with laser therapy to prevent them from causing any further damage to the eye. The boy was able to see within two weeks after the surgery and is now leading a near normal life.

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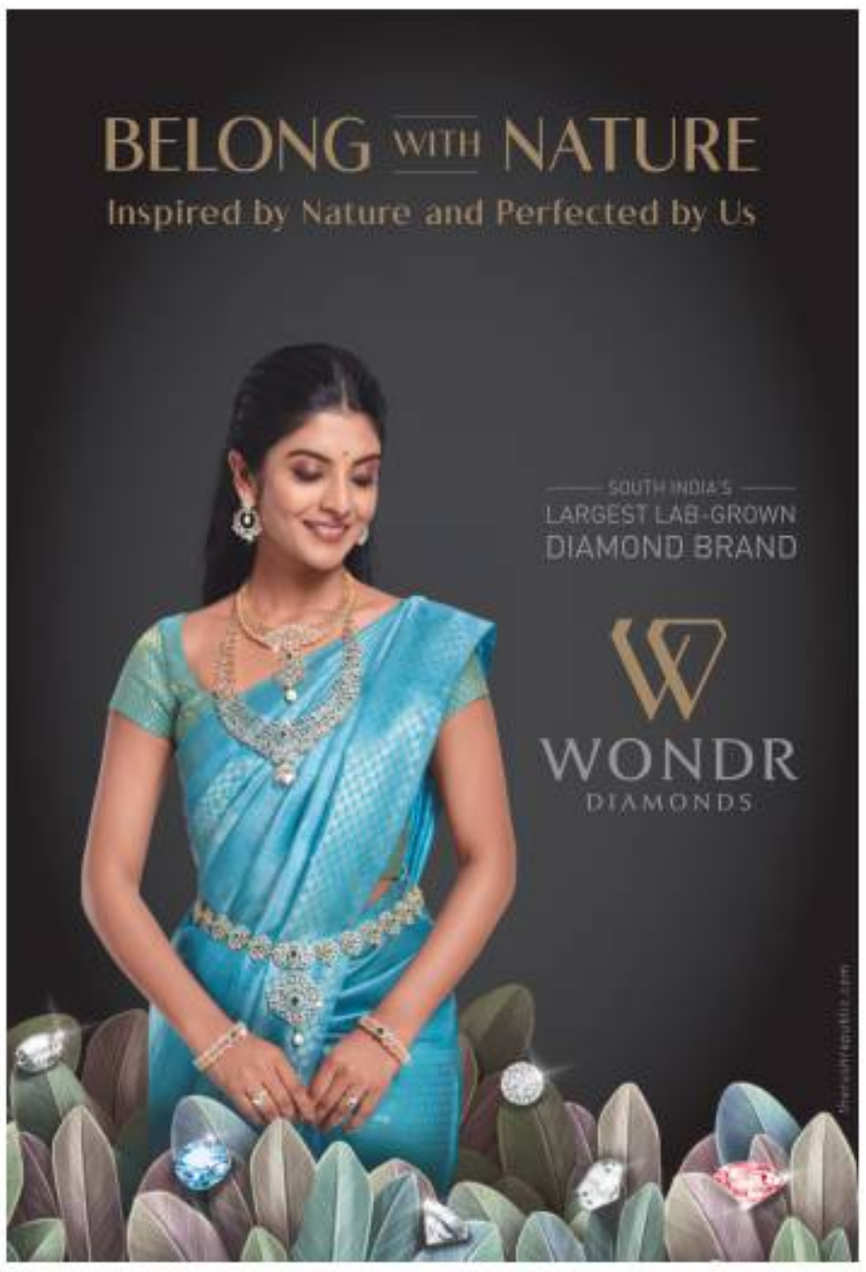
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'Ward reservation loaded in favour of BJP'

Congress threatens protest on Monday, alleging that wards were redrawn and reserved at the behest of RSS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Opposition Congress MLAs from Bengaluru on Friday lashed out at the BJP government for "glaring discrimination" in the reservation of 243 wards in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which they claimed was against the public interest and to the advantage of the BJP MLAs and MPs.

Ramalinga Reddy

Rizwan Arshad

Dinesh Gundu Rao

A majority of wards have been reserved for women candidates in constituencies held by the Opposition Congress MLAs. The Delimitation Committee has blatantly violated reservation guidelines while reserving wards, alleged Congress MLAs Ramalinga Reddy, Rizwan Arshad, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed, Krishna Byre Gowda, Dinesh Gundu Rao and MP D.K. Suresh.

To be challenged

Congress MLAs threatened to stage a protest in front of the Chief Minister's residence on Monday if the notification was not withdrawn. The notification would be challenged in the court, they said.

Opposing the notification, Congress MLAs and party workers staged a protest in front of the Urban Development Department at Vikas Soudha and shouted slogans against the BJP government.

They alleged that wards have been redrawn and reserved for various categories at the behest of the office of Keshava Krupa, RSS Karnataka headquarters, BJP office, MPs and MLA offices of the BJP. They tried to paste a sign reading "RSS Office" by removing the name board of Urban Development at the Vikas Soudha. However, the police brought the situation under control.

The reservation of wards has been notified as per the directions of the Supreme Court order on July 28 under the Section 8(3) of the BBMP Act, 2020, and the guidelines issued by the Urban Development department, based 2011 Census.

Mr. Reddy said in his BTM Layout constituency, eight wards out of nine have been reserved for women. In Jayanagar constituency, five out of six wards have been reserved for women. In Gandhinagar, represented by Dinesh Gundu Rao, all seven wards have been reserved for women. In Chamarajpet represented by Mr. Ahmed, five out of six wards have been reserved for women.

Women's reservation

A total of 87 wards come in the jurisdiction of Congress MLAs. Of them, 67 have been reserved for women. In one MLA constituency represented by a JD(S) MLA, nine out of 12 wards have been reserved for women.

Of 65 wards reserved for general category, 49 wards come under constituencies represented by BJP MLAs, Mr. Reddy alleged.

Mr. Arshad said wards have been demarcated haphazardly. While some have 19,000 voters, others have 45,000 voters in his Shivajinagar constituency. The number of wards have been reduced, he claimed.

Mr. Rao alleged that the notification on reservation was issued to deny victory of Congress candidates in the BBMP elections. "In my Gandhinagar constituency, all wards are reserved for women," he said.

BJP playing politics: AAP

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has decided to contest elections in all wards of BBMP, also alleged that the reservation list is politically motivated. Speaking to *The Hindu*, AAP Karnataka State Secretary Shanthala Damle said, "The latest ward reservation list clearly shows that the BJP is playing politics and wants to gain out of it. The list is politically motivated to take the BJP to a comfortable win, but we will fight elections based on the issues the city is facing rather than caste and money politics."

Meanwhile, the saffron party rejected the allegations and said the Congress was creating unnecessary confusion. The reservation list, it said, was prepared as per the law. "I have lost my seat due to reservation, as my ward Kacharakanahalli is now reserved for women from general category. If the reservation list is politically motivated, why should I lose my seat" former BJP councillor Padmanabha Reddy asked.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' rally to be held today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Department of Posts, Bengaluru East Division, is organizing a rally under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday.

According to a release from, as many as 150 delivery staff on 75 two-wheeler vehicles will participate in the rally which will commence from Virgonagar Post office at 8 a.m. and reach HAL II Stage Head Post Office by 9 a.m.

Har Ghar Tiranga is a campaign held under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Intermittent power supply

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be intermittent power supply from August 6 to August 10 in the areas serviced from 66/11kV Manyata Tech Park MUSS in view of maintenance and repair works.

According to release from BESCOM, East Circle, the affected areas are: Coffee Board Layout, Mariyanapalya, Manyatha Residence, Shree Bhagyashree Layout, Rachenahalli, Amarjyothi Layout, Fathima Layout, Anjanadri Layout and surroundings.

PROVISION OF AUTOMATIC SIGNALLING

TENDER NOTICE NO.: S&T_CON_2022_01. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:- **Tender No. NFR_C-NJP_ABS-CTC_EPC_01. Name of work:** Provision of Automatic Signalling in Alubari Road (AUB) - Old Malda (OML/F) section with Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) in Old Malda - New Jalpaiguri (NJP) section of Katihar Division of N.F. Railway. **Tender Value:** ₹1,89,12,18,705/-; **Earnest money:** ₹96,06,100/-. **E-Tender will be closed at** 15.00 hrs. on 31-08-2022. Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in** Details information of the work and conditions may be seen in the EPC Tender Document.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients M/s RAMKY ESTATES AND FARMS LIMITED is the absolute owner of the property detailed in the schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as the schedule property. The schedule property detailed in item No.1 to 5 of schedule hereunder are the subject matter of a suit in O.S.No.807/2022 on the file of 1st Addl Senior Civil Judge, Devanahalli which is pending adjudication. It has come to the notice of our clients that several persons are trying to induce the general public and Bank and Financial Institutions to deal in respect of the Schedule Property, passing to have title in Item No.1 to Item No.5 of the Schedule Property hereunder.

It is hereby made clear that our client is the absolute owner of the Item No.1 to 5 of the Schedule Property. Please note that our clients have not transacted in respect of schedule property to any extent whatsoever and General Public are hereby cautioned not to deal in respect of the Schedule Property and any transaction in respect of Schedule Property by any person whosoever will not bind our clients to any extent whatsoever. This notice is issued under the instruction of M/s RAMKY ESTATES AND FARMS LIMITED Represented by its authorized signatory Sri A V Bhaskar Reddy.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1 : All that part and parcel of residentially converted land admeasuring 3 Acre 39 Guntas situated at Sy.No. 77/2 of Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, vide conversion order ALN(D)SR No.206/1996-97 dated:21/01/1997 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District bounded by:

East by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Lakshmaiah, West by : Sy.No.77/2 portion of land owned by C. Narayanappa, North by : Sy. No. 76/2 owned by Chikkamunivappa, South by : Government land.

Item No.2 : All that part and parcel of residentially converted land admeasuring 2 Acre 20 Guntas situated at Sy. No. 77/2 of Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, vide conversion order ALN(D)SR No.207/1996-97 dated:21/01/1997 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District bounded by:

East by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Lakshmaiah, West by : Sy.No.77/2 portion of land owned by Narayanappa, North by : Sy. No. 76/2 owned by Chikkamunivappa, South by : Government land.

Item No.3 : All that part and parcel of residentially converted land admeasuring 2 Acre 25 Guntas situated at Sy. No. 77/3 of Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, vide conversion order ALN(D)SR No.206/1996-97 dated:21/01/1997 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District bounded by:

East by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Sri Pillappa, West by : Sy.No.77/2 portion of land owned by C. Narayanappa, North by : Sy. No. 76/2 owned by Chikkamunivappa, South by : Government land.

Item No.4 : All that part and parcel of residentially converted land admeasuring 2 Acre 28 Guntas situated at Sy. No. 77/3 of Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, vide conversion order ALN(D)SR No.208/1996-97 dated:21/01/1997 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District bounded by:

East by : Konnenngala Gadi, West by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Pillappa, North by : Sy. No. 76/3 owned by Gowdar pillanna, South by : Government land.

Item No.5 : All that part and parcel of residentially converted land admeasuring 2 Acre 25 Guntas situated at Sy. No. 77/3 of Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, vide conversion order ALN(D)SR No.205/1996-97 dated:21/01/1997 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District bounded by:

East by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Ramaiah, West by : Sy.No.77/3 portion of land owned by Lakshmaiah, North by : Sy.No. 76/3 owned by Gowdar pillanna, South by : Government land.

PRADEEP B.N, Advocate
Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, Near Venkatappa Layout, Shanthinagar,
Sri Venkateshwara Theatre Rightside Road, Devanahalli Town 562 110.

Handloom exhibition

Stalls displaying handmade products on the occasion of 'Handloom Day' at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath in Bengaluru on Friday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

More people fall victim to Bescom bill payment scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Balakrishnan P., a 46-year-old contractor from Amruthahalli, has filed a complaint with the north-east cyber crime police that he not only lost ₹2 lakh from his savings bank account, but the accused had also used his bank account details to avail online loan of ₹9.8 lakh on Saturday. He was among several persons who received bulk messages informing about the payment of electricity bill being due and warning of power disconnection. The message also had a contact number and a link for further queries.

Mr. Balakrishnan clicked on the link the accused had sent to download an app and pay ₹11 as per the instructions given. Mr. Balakrishnan followed the instructions and realised that ₹2 lakh had been deducted from his account. He then started receiving messages informing that he had availed a loan from a mobile app.

Mr. Balakrishnan is worried about losing his money and getting intimidating calls from recovery agents of the loan app.

In another case, Ashwathappa, 63, a retired private firm employee from Yelahanka, lost ₹1.3 lakh in a similar manner. He downloaded the quick support app and paid ₹20 and the money in his savings bank account was gone. The police are now trying to track down the money transactions and have advised the duo to change the passwords.

In another case, N. Jayaraman, 68, a resident of Kaggadasapura, filed a complaint with the east division cyber crime police that he lost ₹9.97 lakh on Friday. Mr. Jayaraman said that as soon as he downloaded team viewer quick support app and paid ₹11, a sum of ₹9,97,000 was deducted from his savings bank account.

Colin Calmiano, 60, from HBR Layout, was also cheated of ₹4.9 lakh in a similar cheating incident. The accused, posing as a Bescom staff, sent him a message to update his electricity bill payment option with a link on Sunday. Following the instructions, Mr. Calmiano paid ₹11 using the app following which a total sum of ₹4,99,911 was deducted through many transactions on his saving bank account.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.15519743M, RFN, Samuel.R, Unit: 14RR, R/at #518, 5th Main Road, 4th Cross, Ambedkar Nagar, Bengaluru-560047 declare that correct name of my Mother is R.Velankanni Mari and Date of birth is 19/07/1976 and in service record Name and Date of birth is incorrect as Velagani Mary.R and 01/07/1976 respectively vide affidavit dated: 04/08/2022 before Notary Meer Hassan Bangaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAVITA Stanley, Spouse of Maria Stanley Baskal Selva Kumar resident of No.25, Zabdiel, 1st Main 1st Cross, P&T Layout, TC Palya, Bangalore – 560036, have changed my Name from Kavita Salmley to Kavita Stanley vide Affidavit dated 02/08/2022 at Bangalore

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. No. 25015/2018
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. Sachidananda M Naik
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. Sachidananda M Naik
Aged about 37 years,
S/o. Mahabaleshwara Tippaiha Naik
R/a. No. 554, 1st Floor, 14th Main, 10th Cross Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore- 560070
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 3,00,060.53/-** (as on 20/06/2017) along with the interest at 18% p.a and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the**11/10/2022** at **11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 03rd day of August 2022.
By order of Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, POORNIMA N.S., W/o Nagarjuna S, R/at No.21, 2nd Main, 11th Cross, Sir M.V.Layout, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097, wish to state that my name is mentioned as Poornima N.S in my Pan Card, SSLC, PUC, Degree Marks Card and Aadhar card whereas in Driving Licence it is mentioned as N.S.Poornima. I declare that the two names, Poornima.N.S and N.S.Poornima are one and the same and belongs to me only, sworn vide affidavit dated 02-08-2022 before Notary R. Sulakshana, Bangaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF III ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE :: KAKINADA
O.S. No. 40 of 2021
Between :
MUTHA VEERA VENKATA SATYA SURYA BHAGAVAN ...Plaintiff
and
MUTHA ANNAPOORNESWARA RAO & OTHERS ...Defendants
To,
Mutha Krishnaveni, W/o. (Late) Sai Hindu, Aged 65 Years,
R/o. White Fields, Bangalore.
Her address is not being furnished but her phone number is 9885222293 which is having whatsapp.
...7th Defendant
In the above suit several times notices have been sent to you, but you are evading to receive the notice. You are hereby informed to appear personally or through your Advocate before the above Hon'ble Court on **26-08-2022 at 10:30 am** and submit your case. Else the matter will be decided in your absence.
|| BY COURT ORDER ||
B.G.K. LAW CHAMBERS
Advocates
D.No. 20-1-20, Suguna Nilayam
Kakinada Main Road, KAKINADA.
Dt: 04-8-2022 Cell: 70136 94211

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 74)
O.S. NO. 25483/2022
Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 087
...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Chandrashekar S
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri. Chandrashekar S,
S/o. Sri. Pangala Ramaish Subramanya, No.7, Ground Floor, 27th Main, 3rd Cross, Behind HDFC, IRR Branch, VGS Layout, Ejipura, Bangalore - 560 047
Also at
Sri. Chandrashekar S,
No.21/1, 2nd Main,
5th Cross, New Sapthagiri Layout, Uttarahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560 061
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 5,09,497/- (Rupees Five Lakh Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Seven only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH-74)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 08.09.2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 28-07-2022
BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BENGALURU
ADVOCATE, FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates, No.10,
7th Cross, Victoria Layout,
Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU (CH-74)
O.S. No. 25626/2021
BETWEEN
M/s. ICICI BANK LTD.
Having its branch office at 4/10., Mythree Tower Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road, Bangalore 560 068 And represented by its Collection Manager Mr. Pramod G.
...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. N.Janakiram ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. N.Janakiram
S/o. Mr.Badari Narayanaiah
R/at. No.628, Sai Sannidhi 9th Stage, 7th Block J.P. Nagar, Anjanapura Post H.M. World City Apartment, Bangalore- 560 040
Also At:- No. 516, 1st Cross, Karasavadi Road, Hosahalli, Mandya, Karnataka- 571 401
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against You seeking recovery of **Rs. 5,22,518.51 as on 19/04/2021** along with interest at 24% and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the **Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Mayo hall at Bangalore (CH-74)** in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 08/09/2022 at 11:00 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 29th day of July 2022.
By order of this Hon'ble Deputy Registrer
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate For Plaintiff
ANVAYA LAW, ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS
First Floor, Indian Express Building No.1, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 560001

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU [CH-22]
O.S. No. 25657/2021
BETWEEN:
M/s ICICI BANK Ltd Having its branch office at 4/10., Mythree Tower Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore 560068
And represented by its Collection Manager
Mr. Pramod G. ..PLAINTIFF
AND
Mr. G.M.Pir ...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. G.M.Pir
S/o Mr. Mohammed Yosuf Pirzada 37 yeas R/at. No.106, 2nd Floor, 2A Cross, K.R. Layout, J.P. Nagar 6th Phase Near Triveni Bar Bangalore 560078
Also At
No.43, Vinayaka Nagar 7th Phase, J.P. Nagar Ganesh Temple Bengaluru 560078
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.7,28,234.02 as on 22/04/2021 along with interest 24% P.A and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Mayo hall at Bangalore (CH-22) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on-09.09.2022 at 11.00 AM. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 1st day of August 2022.
By the order of This Hon'ble Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Advocate For Plaintiff
ANVAYA LAW,
ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS
First Floor, India Express Building No.1, Queens Road Bengaluru-560001

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE
(CCH-58)
O.S. No. 25482/2020
Hg : 10/10/2022
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Subbareddy Bandi
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Subbareddy Bandi
Aged about 33 years,
S/o. Venkata Subbareddy Bandi, R/a : #319, AECS Layout, 'B' Block, Kundanahalli, Near Bank of India ATM, Bangalore- 560037
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 5,12,251/- (as on 07/01/2020)** along with interest at 11.29% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the LVII Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-58] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 10th October 2022 at 11.00 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 03rd day of August 2022.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE [CCH-21]
O.S. No. 25056/2020
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Mohammed Saifuddin. R
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mohammed Saifuddin. R
Aged about 26 years,
S/o Mohammed Rafiuddin,
R/a : #412,Gandhi Colony, Ejipura Fair Lands
Bangalore 560047
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you Seeking recovery of Rs. 3,74,205.02/- (as on 27/11/2019) along with interest at 8.5% and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the IV Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-21] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 12/09/2022 at 11A.M take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 02nd day of August 2022
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
(CCH-21)
O.S. No. 26571/2020
Hg : 12/09/2022
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
S. Ananda Reddy ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
S. Ananda Reddy, Aged about 27 years, S/o Sreenivasulu Reddy, R/a: #17, 3rd "A" Cross, GS Palya Main Road, Near Anugraha Hospital, Electronic City, Bangalore- 560100
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 2,49,688.57/- (as on 03/11/2020)** along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the IV Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-21] person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 12/09/2022 at 11:00 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 03th day of August 2022.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE COURT OF THE IX ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT MYSURU
O. S. NO. 47/2021
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007. And having its branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2, 3, 4, Ground Floor, Ramavilas Road, Mysuru-570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr.Swamy.G.K., Aged about 35 years, S/o.Gangadharappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mr. Manjunathas ...DEFENDANT
Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication
To,
Defendant :
Mr. MANJUNATHA.S
Aged about 28 years,
Son of M.T. Srinivasa
R/at. 387, Mari Gudi Tempel, Ganesha Temple,
Manchegowda Koppal,
Mysuru- 570021.
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs.3,75,129/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand One Hundred And Twenty Nine Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble IX Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Mysuru, in person or by a pleader on the 22/08/2022 to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 22nd day of June 2022.
By Order of the Court
Civil Judge and J.M.F.C. Court, Mysuru
Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Officer Advocates, No.4 (10/2),
West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. No. 26561/2020
Hg: 10/10/2022
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Tushar Omprakash Chetty
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Tushar Omprakash Chetty
Aged about 41 years,
S/o. Omprakash Duriaswamy Chetty
R/a: #13, 2nd Cross,Papaiah Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore- 560043
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 3,45,463.11/- (as on 03/11/2020) along with the interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 57th Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore (CCH- 58) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the**10/10/2022** at **11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 03rd day of August 2022.
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

IN THE COURT OF THE LVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 26581/2020
Hg : 12/10/2022
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle. Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007
And its branch office at Mythri Center, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore – 560 068
...Plaintiff
AND
S.H. Nagesh ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
S.H. Nagesh,
Aged about 33 years, S/o. Boya Hanumantharayappa, R/a: 426, 5th Main, Road, Domlur BDA Layout, Domlur, Bangalore - 560071
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.3,01,982.50/- (as on 06/11/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 57th Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-58] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 12th October 2022 at 11 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 3rd day of August 2022.
By Order of the Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates
No.109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560052

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, AUG. 06	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 13:09	SET 00:05
SUNDAY, AUG. 07	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:44
RISE 14:10	SET 00:54
MONDAY, AUG. 08	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:44
RISE 15:15	SET 01:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	27	22
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	24	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

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Arogya Bandhu scheme modified

Number of PHCs has been limited to 12 now

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Modifying the Arogya Bandhu scheme guidelines, the State government has now limited the continuation of the scheme in only 12 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) that are 15 km away from the highway. This follows the recommendations by a committee set up to examine the feasibility of the scheme in September 2021.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* that the existing Arogya Bandhu scheme utility was examined following the Health Minister K. Sudhakar's directions. "Based on the committee's recommendations, we suggested modifications and the government has accepted the revision limiting the scheme to 12 PHCs. The agreement with the remaining PHCs will deem to be lapsed once their existing contract period concludes," he said.

PHCs that remain under Arogya Bandhu scheme

- Hediyala PHC, Nanjangud taluk, Mysuru
- Srimangala PHC, Virajpet taluk, Kodagu
- Baluvaneralu PHC, Tiptur taluk, Tumakuru
- Diggi PHC, Supa taluk, Uttara Kannada
- Kankumbi PHC, Khanapur taluk, Belagavi
- Aski PHC, Sindagi taluk, Vijayapura
- Bantanur PHC, Muddebihal taluk, Vijayapura
- Gumballi PHC, Yelandur taluk, Chamarajanagar
- Hallikerehundi PHC, Chamarajanagar taluk, Chamarajanagar
- Lokikere PHC, Davangere taluk, Davangere
- G. Hulakoppa PHC, Kalaghatgi taluk, Dharwad
- Sheshagiri PHC, Hanagal taluk, Haveri

The scheme
The 'Arogya Bandhu' scheme was launched by the Health Department in May 2011 to partner with non-governmental organisations, charitable trusts and private medical colleges to run 52 of its PHCs in 39 taluks. In November 2016, the government took back 27 PHCs and revised guidelines for running the remaining 25 PHCs under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model.

Subsequently, in September, 2020, the scheme was stalled when the Health Department filled the vacancies of doctors, paramedical staff, pharmacists and lab technicians. In July 2021, the department directed all District Health Officers (DHOs) to take back PHCs under the PPP model as and when their contract period ends. However, with the NGOs appealing to the government to renew their contract and allow them to run the PHCs under the scheme, a committee was set up in September 2021 to study the feasibility of continuing the scheme.

GO on revised guidelines
Following the committee's recommendations, the State issued a Government Order (GO) on July 21 stating that only remote PHCs (15 km away from the highway) will be allowed to remain under the scheme.

Following the GO, many NGOs have appealed to the department to renew their contracts. "The appeals are being relooked at," the commissioner said.

As per the modified guidelines, all PHCs under the scheme should appoint a MBBS doctor. All staff, including the doctor, should be aged below 60 years and should meet the government prescribed qualifications. Doctors should reside in the place where the PHC is located and all staff should be trained and actively involved in implementing the various state-run and central health schemes, stated the GO.

The staff should maintain accounts (of funds released for national programmes) in the prescribed format and submit it to the taluk health officers.

They should submit online target and achievement reports pertaining to the Mother Child Tracking System within the fifth of every month. Funds for the next quarter should be released only on the basis of these reports, the order said.

The PHCs asset registers should be examined at regular intervals and the health department should obtain a ₹25 lakh bank guarantee from the NGOs. If the medical services offered in the PHCs are not found to be satisfactory, the contracts should be terminated without any delay, the order stated.

COVID-19: 2,042 new cases, 2 deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A BBMP healthcare worker administering the COVID-19 vaccine in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

Karnataka on Friday recorded 2,042 new infections taking the total number of cases to 40,16,556. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate stood at 6.32% and the weekly TPR touched 6.30%. Of the new cases, 1,309 are from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With two deaths, the State's toll touched 40,113. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 1,704 persons were discharged on Friday taking the total recoveries to 39,64,998. Active cases stood at 11,403 on Friday. As many as 32,277 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 23,920 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,79,66,892.

FROM PAGE ONE

Dentist throws daughter from balcony

According to the police, the accused, a dentist by qualification and a homemaker, married Kiran, a techie, 12 years ago. The couple had a baby girl, who had speech impairment since two years. She was under medication and Sushma was upset about it, the police said.

On Thursday evening, she was strolling on the balcony outside her house carrying the child and allegedly threw her down before climbing on the railing and shouting for help at the CKC Garden Aditya apartment. The neighbours rushed to her help and pulled her down to safety.

Meanwhile, the child crashed on the ground and lay in a pool of blood. She was picked up by a resident and given first aid before rushing her to a private hospital and then to NIMHANS, where she succumbed.

Mother charged with murder
Based on the information from the hospital, the police rushed to the spot and questioned the couple. Following a complaint by Kiran, the police arrested Sushma charging her with murder.

"Prima facie investigations revealed that the mother was not happy about the health issues of the daughter and is said to have committed the crime," a senior police officer said.

"The accused had even tried to get rid of the child by leaving her in a moving train a few months ago. But the father came to know about this and with the help of child helpline members traced the baby near Hassan and brought her back home. However, he did not file a complaint against her then," a police officer said.

Logo contest for 'Namma Clinics'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar has invited citizens to submit logo designs for the State government's 'Namma Clinics' initiative.

The winner of the contest will be awarded by Chief Minister Bommai and Mr. Sudhakar. People an submit their logo designs from August 5 to 15 at logo4nammaclinic @gmail.com

The government has decided to open 438 Namma Clinics in urban centres across the State including one each in every ward of BBMP. The focus of these clinics is to bolster health infrastructure and make healthcare more accessible to economically weaker sections in urban areas.

RT-PCR detection kit for human monkeypox virus released

Company obtained manufacturing licence from CDSCO and is awaiting clinical validation of kit

- The kit was released on the occasion of the foundation-laying ceremony for the 'Research and Training Unit for Rare Diseases' held at the Centre for Human Genetics (CHG) in Bengaluru.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A human monkeypox virus (MPXV) multiplex RT-PCR detection kit was released by Minister for IT and BT and Science and Technology C.N. Ashwath Narayan on Friday.

Developed by NeoDx Biotech Labs, the MPXV kit is designed for specific detection of the Central African (Congo Basin) and West African Monkeypox virus clades. The kit uses gold-standard Taqman chemistry-based RT-PCR method.

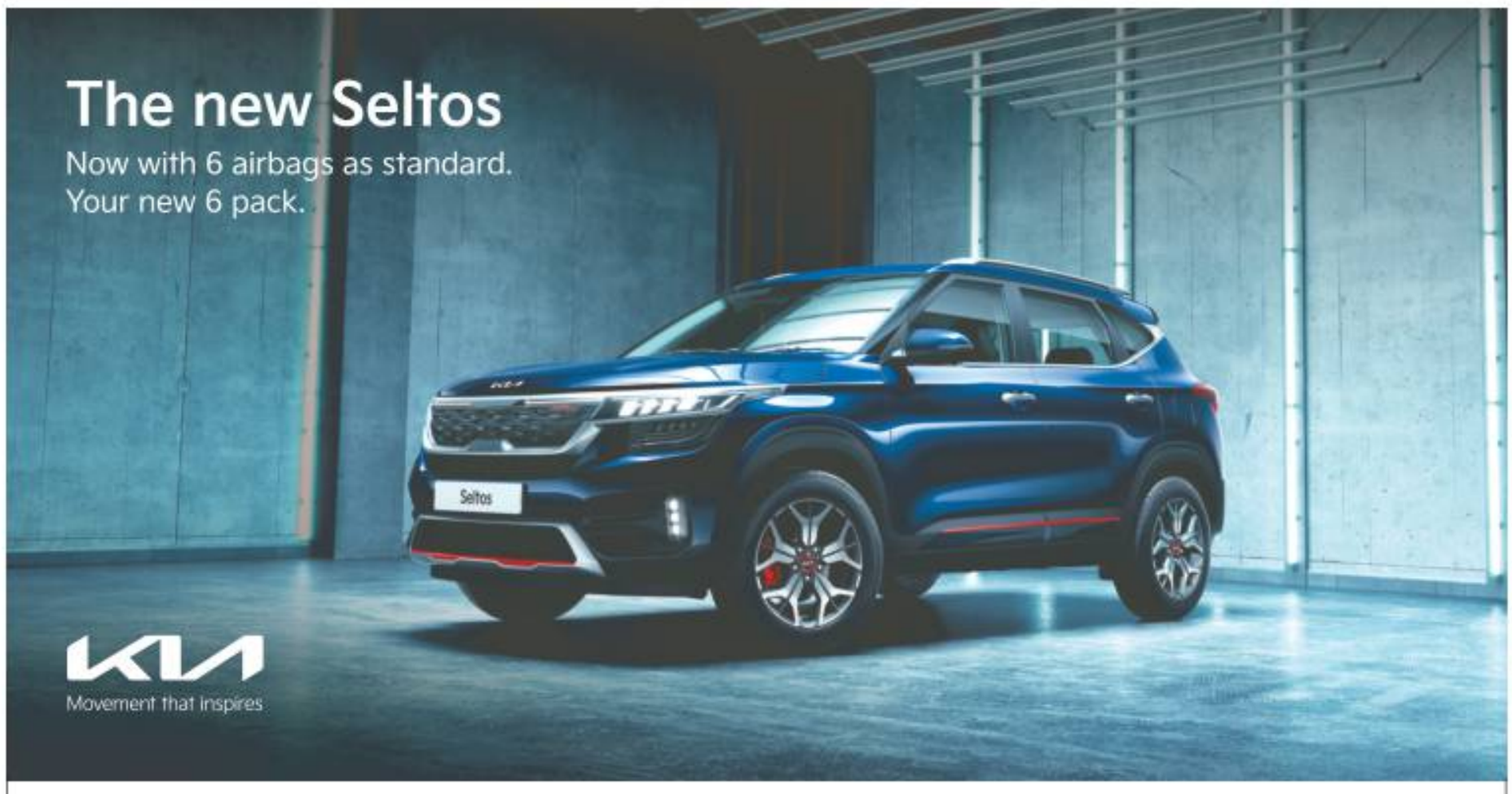
The company has obtained the manufacturing test licence from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and is waiting for clinical validation of the kit, according to a press release.

The kit was released on the occasion of the foundation-laying ceremony for the 'Research and Training Unit for Rare Diseases' held at the Centre for Human Genetics (CHG) in Bengaluru.

The CHG, under the guidance of the founding Director, Professor H. Sharat Chandra, for the past 20 years, has been providing high quality genetic services to patients with rare diseases from all over Karnataka and other states, the release said.

35,000 families
Meenakshi Bhat, Associate Director at CHG said nearly 35,000 families with genetic disorders have been diagnosed and counselled in the past 15 years. "The genetic laboratories at CHG provide diagnostic testing in around 5,000 patients per year. The majority of these patients are from government hospitals in Karnataka and these services are provided free to BPL and other eligible patient families and at cost to others," she said.

The Research and Training Unit for Rare Diseases is an extension of the present CHG building. This 40,000 sq. ft extension will have three floors in which comprehensive genetic counselling facilities for around 2,500 families with rare disorders will be evaluated annually, she said.



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Office in a container

Novel way of creating a chic space to work. A look by **NANDHINI SUNDAR**

With COVID, work spaces have certainly altered, extending to encompass residences with the online culture coming into stay. While the concept of work from home, building a home office, reaching out to a co-working space have become the accepted norm, how about creating a space to work within a shipping container? Sounds weird? Or novel yet doubtful? Perhaps.

But that is exactly what Architects Arun Balan and Klinna of Balan & Nambisan Architects created when they were approached to come up with an office and experience centre in a precast concrete factory. Given the rugged industrial environs of the site, they opined that the structure they came up with would need to stand out and yet retain the industrial language of the domain. Besides, there was also an expectation keyed in: to facilitate dismantling when required and relocate elsewhere.

The first instinct for the architects was to address the requirements, keeping in perspective a design and structure that is sustainable, yet defies the conventional norms of a built form. This prompted them to explore materials that would permit recycling, repurposing. Their exploration led them to look at upcycling the discarded shipping containers and come up with a unique office and experience centre.

How the office is shaped (top); the conference room • ARCHANA VIKRAM

"Picking up the shipping containers not only stopped them from being scrapped, but it also saved on resources such as sand, gravel, bricks, cement, water that normally go into construction besides saving precious construction time", points out Balan. "Not using these materials in construction also meant a cleaner site while creating this office", he adds.

> The structure saved on resources such as sand, gravel, bricks, cement, water that normally go into construction

Adaptable and portable

According to him, the shipping containers have become excellent flexible adaptable spaces that are portable when required while bringing in the green quotient of upcycling. "The shorter construction time is proving to be a further attraction to upcycle and reuse these containers to create unconventional living spaces."

In keeping with this design decision, Balan and his team picked up four used shipping containers and converted them together into a compact 1500 sq. ft office which housed a workstation, an experience centre, the dining and a pantry, a set of toilets as well as an outdoor step-out deck.

Statement with colour

In an industrial site, a used rustic shipping container can become part of the scenery and go unnoticed. "We picked the containers to go with the language of the industrial space, yet we wanted them to stand out and make a resounding statement. The way to do this would be to paint them in cheerful bright colours. We chose a bright red, chirpy yellow, dark cobalt blue to stand out against the landscape", he states.

Given the containers perched above ground level, the brightly painted structures stand out, their captivating presence magnetically drawing the visitor to step in, explore and experience.

A cantilevered staircase with a large glazing further accentuates the sculptural element of the structure, the visual experience moving away from the mundane material component. Multiple open decks prevail around the containers to step out for short breaks.

Multiple levels

The metal structure is designed over three levels, the ground level accommodating the 800 sq. ft marketing and experience centre where it breaks out into an external courtyard complete with a waterbody where the visitor can sit back and solicit a discussion.

An open deck features on the first level which also doubles up as a discussion space. The second level comes with a lobby and the director's cabin along with a step-out balcony.

Interestingly, all the outdoor decks on the three levels are placed in different directions so that, depending on the sun movement through the day, the choice of the right outdoor deck for discussion can be facilitated.

The containers come in a linear form and this can prove to be monotonous. To break this, a transitory space in the form of a skylight area was brought in between the director's cabin and the lobby on the second level. Given the large openings, an outdoor deck besides the skylight enables natural ventilation along with abundant natural light to filter in.

Award

The structure is the recipient of IIID Design Excellence Award, besides having been shortlisted by 'Arch Daily' for Building of the Year Award in the Small Office category.

Tackling heat

A drawback of metal is heat ingress, especially in the summer months. The spaces within can become uninhabitable. This calls for appropriate insulation of the interiors. Balan and his team designed the interiors strategically around a courtyard and waterbody to usher in cool moist air, reducing both heat and dryness in the interiors.

"The large windows and openings carved out of the containers further complement this unhindered flow of cool moist air while exiting the hot air from within", adds Balan.

While the design brings in passive cooling, the structure, being metal, still requires insulation to prevent radiation of heat into the interiors. Balan and his team worked around this by insulating the walls and ceiling of the container with novel rock wool and strand board panelling.

"This brought down the ambient temperature by several notches", states Balan. Metal is also prone to rusting when the surface is exposed to rain. The rusting was circumvented by planning the exposed service lines to effectively drain rainwater and prevent stagnation.

The interiors of a metal structure, unless made cheerful, , can prove to be unattractive to inhabit. They require the same colour and cheer afforded for the exteriors, to usher in warmth in the ambience. In keeping with this, cobalt blue covers the walls, tying in artfully with the leather seating and rugs, even as the sun slips through the skylight and vertical openings to cheerfully blend in with the greenery.

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After the rains, potholes are back

BBMP officials admit roads have developed potholes, but claim most of the stretches were fixed just last month

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Incessant and heavy rains in the last few days in the city submerged many a road, and what it left is a long trail of potholed roads. Motorists, who were forced to wade dangerously through inundated roads, are now finding themselves negotiating pockmarked roads that are turning out to be just as dangerous. Key arterial roads, including Old Madras Road, Bannerghatta Road, Indiranagar, HAL Road, Mysuru Road, Yeshwanthpur, Tumakuru Road, Vasanthnagar, Malleswaram, CBD roads and ORR, have been left with potholes, resulting in traffic snarls.

"There are many potholes on Bannerghatta Road and metro works make things worse. After heavy rain, roads are flooded. We can't even see the potholes due to the rainwater," said Manoj Kumar, who uses the road every day to travel between BTM Layout and Hullimavu.

"The potholes are potentially life threatening. Due to the rain, they have gotten deeper and bigger. If the contractors do a good job in making roads, this would not be a problem. Recently, due to the potholes, I had a substantial toll on my bike and now it is scary to ride. I would rather leave my bike at home," said Aaditya Sajit, a financial analyst who uses Mantri Mall Road, Malleswaram.

Another motorist complained about the asphalt used on the roads coming out after rains. "Potholes appear because they have laid a thin layer of asphalt. It gets worse with rain. Tarring is rushed so the rain causes the same holes to come back. When the roads were flooded, we aren't able to see where the potholes are. I have fallen off my two-wheeler at least thrice because of this," said Sarah Rebello, a student.

Vehicles navigating potholes, after continuous rains, on Uttarahalli-Kengeri Road, near Uttarahalli Circle, in Bengaluru on Friday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Sadhana K., a regular user of Old Madras Road from Malleshpalya, said, "The stretch between Indiranagar BDA complex and Adarsha theatre is like a roller coaster. There's no road left. Also, huge potholes have formed on GM Palya Road that is a crucial connection between BEML Gate and Vigananagar, etc. Vehicles have to crawl here."

BBMP officials have acknowledged that potholes have appeared, but claimed that they had fixed most of the problems just last month. "The rain which is coming now has created new potholes on various roads. We have regularly been closing them as it is also part of our regular maintenance work," said a senior BBMP official. Meanwhile, traffic police, who bear the brunt of motorists' ire, are unhappy with the BBMP. "Apart from the danger they pose, potholes slow traffic, doubling our work," said a traffic police personnel from Madiwala.

In the last few years, the HC has repeatedly pulled up the BBMP for poor road quality and potholes. In January this year, it questioned why potholes occur after every rain in the city. In June, it said Bengaluru is getting a bad name because of potholes.

(With inputs by Vibha Rao)

Rain havoc: Boy dies as house wall collapses in Channarayapatna

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A 13-year-old boy died on the spot after a wall of his house fell on him due to heavy rains at Vaddarahatti, near Boovanahalli in Nuggehalli hobli of Channarayapatna taluk early morning on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Bharath, son of Vijay Kumar and Chaitra of Vaddarahatti.

Prajwal has been studying in Class 7 in a Morarji Residential School. He had come to his place on Thursday evening. After having dinner, he slept with his brother Manu and grandmother Thayamma in a room. The wall, which has been wet due to continuous rains, fell on him.

Nuggehalli Police have registered the case. Channarayapatnat tahsildar Govindaraju and other officials visited the spot. Many parts of Channarayapatna have been receiving heavy rains for the past few days. A stone wall on Vindhyagiri in Shravanabelgola also collapsed two days ago due to rains. Channarayapatna taluk recorded an average of 38.9 mm of rainfall on Friday, against the normal of 2.6 mm of rainfall. Nuggehalli hobli received 36.2 mm of rainfall against the normal of 3.4 mm.

Hassan DC R.Girish handing over a relief cheque for ₹ 4 lakh to Vijay Kumar of Vaddarahatti in Channarayapatna taluk on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prajwal • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Combined discharge from KRS, Kabini dam on the increase

Cumulative outflow from these two reservoirs since June 1 is 136 tmcft

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

Incessant rains and revival of south-west monsoon, which has gained vigour in the Cauvery catchment area in south Karnataka, has augmented the rate of inflow into dams and the corresponding outflow.

The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the Cauvery at Srirangapatana in Mandya district and Kabini reservoir across the Kapila at Beechanahalli in H.D. Kote taluk of Mysuru district, have been full since July.

The outflow from Krishnaraja Sagar is high since the last few days following downpour in Cauvery catchment area. • FILE PHOTO

Full FRL in July

But with the increase in the inflow — and KRS having attained the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 124.8 feet as early as July — the dam authorities have no option but to match the rate of inflow with proportionate outflow.

The inflow into KRS on Friday morning was at the rate of 65,733 cusecs while the outflow was 80,013 cusecs. The inflow into the Kabini was at the rate of 14,187 cusecs and the outflow 15,000 cusecs. The cumulative outflow on Friday from both the reservoirs was at the rate of 95,000 cusecs.

This has been the scenario in both KRS and Kabini dam since the last few days. As a result, the quantum of cumulative discharge from both the dams since June 1 has crossed 136 tmcft. While 93 tmcft has flown from KRS since June, 43 tmcft has been released from Kabini.

Contrast to last year

This is in contrast to the cumulative discharge of 53 tmcft from both KRS and Kabini reservoir from June till August 5, 2021, as per the figures maintained by the Karnataka Sate Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre).

During the same period in 2020, the cumulative outflow from both KRS and Kabini was much lower and it was 33 tmcft owing to delayed onset of monsoon.

The State has to release 123.14 tmcft from June to September, to Tamil Nadu as stipulated by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal while the total release during a water year (from June to May) is 177.25 tmcft. But the cumulative outflow from both the dams has crossed 136 tmcft so far this year. This does not include water accrued owing to rains in the catchment area in the downstream of both the reservoirs.

Meanwhile, more rainy days are forecast for Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru which are the catchment area for the Cauvery and the Hemavati respectively. The Indian Meteorological Department has already declared a red alert for Kodagu till August 6, indicating that rains will intensify. Bhagamandala, near Talacauvery, from where the Cauvery originates, recorded 145.40 mm of rainfall during the 24-hour period ending 8.30 a.m. on Friday. Napoklu recorded 133.40 mm and Srimangala received 80.80 mm of rainfall during the same period. This has been the trend since the last few days with no let-up in the rains and hence the inflow to KRS is expected to remain high for a few more days.

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C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
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Sri. Basavaraj Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
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Ragi mudde and *jolada rotti* to debut in midday meals soon

This is in addition to egg, banana, and groundnut chikki being provided now

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

In addition to egg, banana, and groundnut chikki in midday meals, the State government now plans to add millets like ragi and jowar to the diet of government and aided schoolchildren.

As a part of providing regional and nutritious food, the Department of School Education and Literacy plans to provide *ragi mudde* for South Karnataka students and *jolada rotti* for North Karnataka students, along with rice and sambar in the midday meals.

The government plans to provide *ragi mudde* for South Karnataka students and *jolada rotti* for North Karnataka students. • FILE PHOTO

The government provides midday meals and a cup of hot milk to government and aided schoolchildren across the State. Rice, sambar, vegetables, and corn are part of the meals. Also, weekly once, they are given wheat in the form of *upma, godi payasa, or chapathi.*

In addition, the government distributes boiled egg, banana, and, groundnut chikki weekly twice to students of classes 1 to 8.

Vishal R., Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction, told *The Hindu:* "Months ago, officials of the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KFCSC) offered to supply ragi upto the month of January and jowar for September at competitive prices, as they had excess stock. We have different food systems in the State. Ragi and jowar are major grains of the State and consumption of ragi is more in the southern districts and jowar in the northern districts."

"Providing local food relevant to that geographical area is the best thing. *Ragi mudde* and *jolada rotti* will be distributed along with rice and sambar, soon," the Commissioner said.

High Court comes to the rescue of electricity accident victims

Awards total compensation of ₹1.28 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Coming to the rescue of victims of electricity accidents, including two minors, who were deprived of immediate compensation, the High Court has directed the public electricity distribution and supply companies to pay a total compensation of ₹1.28 crore in three separate incidents that occurred during 2017-18.

"The action of the respondent in not disbursing the ex-gratia compensation in terms of the government norms is an arbitrary action insofar as the very object of providing ex-gratia compensation stands defeated by non-disbursement," the court observed.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav issued the directions on Thursday while allowing three separate petitions. The petitions were filed by Rekha, the widow of an agricultural labourer who was electrocuted at a coffee plantation in Sakaleshpura of Hassan district, 15-year-old Chandana K. of Lottegollahalli in Bengaluru, and seven-year-old Muizz Ahmad Shariff of Gurananpalya in Bengaluru. The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) had paid only nominal amount of ₹2.5 lakh to Chandana and ₹5 lakh to Muizz in 2020 after the intervention of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Children's role

"By no stretch of imagination could it be asserted that the child ought to have exercised due care and caution in not going near the high-tension electrical line (HT line) and coming within the induction zone, as the child could not be expected to maintain the buffer distance," the court observed, while stating that the question of fastening of contributory negligence on the child would not arise.

Rejecting the contention of the KPTCL and Bescom that the litigants will have to approach the trial court for compensation as it involves various disputed facts, the court said that "enforcement of 'public law remedy' is *de-hors* the remedy available to claim compensation under the 'private law remedy' before the civil courts".

The court also said that the question of dispute about the accidents under Section 161 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, does not arise in these cases as the reports of the Electrical Inspector had confirmed the accidents, their causes and the lapses of the authorities.

Declining to make the owner of the coffee plantation, the owner of a building who built the structure violating the distance to be maintained from the HT line, and the BBMP as party to proceedings for joint responsibility to pay compensation, the court said that "it is open for the KPTCL and Bescom to proceed against the joint *tort-feasors* or others in separate proceedings".

The court has determined the compensation payable to the victims by applying the formula and parameters like loss of future income, marriage prospects, medical expenses, pain, suffering and disfigurement which is used in computation of compensation in the cases of motor vehicle accidents.

It also directed that in future, the electricity distribution and supply companies will have to pay compensation within two months in cases of accidents occurring due to overhead lines as per the government's norms without waiting for the report of the Chief Electrical Inspectorate to the government.

Victims and compensation

Chandana K. She suffered 75% disability following amputation of her left hand when she was 13. She came in contact with a 11kV electricity line when she was climbing the stairs holding an iron mop on October 19, 2017. Her father is an autorickshaw driver. A compensation of ₹2.5 lakh was paid in March, 2020. The High Court has awarded a total ₹51.76 lakh.

Muizz Ahmad Shariff He was five years and eight months old when he suffered 80% burns as he came in the induction zone of a 66kV high tension line when jumping to his neighbour's building to collect a cricket ball on September 16, 2017. His father is a contract worker. The KPTCL had paid ₹5 lakh compensation in March, 2020. The Wakf Board and the BBMP paid ₹1 lakh and ₹50,000, respectively. HC has awarded ₹50.82 lakh.

N.M. Subramanya The 36-year-old was electrocuted while harvesting pepper using an aluminium ladder which came in contact with a 11kV feeder line on February 22, 2018. No compensation was paid. High Court has awarded ₹25.52 lakh.

18 investments worth ₹34,432.46 cr. cleared

It will create jobs for 48,850 people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The 59th meeting of the State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and vice-chairman and Industries Minister Murugesh R. Nirani on Friday approved 18 investment projects with a total investment of ₹34,432.46 crore.

The investments are expected to create employment for about 48,850 people.

Among the companies, the SHLCC cleared Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.'s investment proposal of ₹3,661.5 crore at Bidadi industrial area. The company planned to produce passenger cars and diversified product profile of hybrid technology vehicles along with ICE vehicles.

The project would create employment opportunities to 3,254 persons, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

- Projects in the field of aerospace, semi-conductor steel and automobile sector were cleared.

It also cleared additional investment of ₹775.35 crore of Renuka Sugars for setting up ethanol project and ₹270.36 crore investment of a cooperative sugar factory headed by Chidananda Prabhu Kore to set up an ethanol plant.

Projects in the field of aerospace, semi-conductor steel and automobile sector were cleared, said a press release.

Forest Department seeks cancellation of 'unlawful' land grant of 2,343 acres

It was illegally given to those who lost land to irrigation projects in Hassan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

The Forest Department has written to the State Government for the cancellation of land grant of 2,343.19 acres in the forest area of Hassan district and has also sought action against Revenue Department officers responsible for the "unlawful grant of land."

Raj Kishore Singh, PCCF and Head of Forest Force, on July 19, wrote to Jawaid Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary of Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, that land located in forest area had been granted in Hassan, violating the laws, in 596 cases. Even after repeated reminders from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, no action had been taken to cancel the grants. "I request you to appeal to the Additional Chief Secretary of Revenue to cancel the land grant and register cases against officers responsible for illegal grants as per Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980," the letter said.

The Hemavathi project, taken up in the 1970s, affected 172 villages and submerged 22,640 acres. A dam was built at Goruru in Hassan taluk in 1979. The Yagachi project was implemented in 2001 and the Vatehole project was completed in 1984. Hundreds of people lost their land to these projects. They were eligible for alternative land for cultivation. The grant of alternative land went on for decades.

K.N. Basavaraj, Deputy Conservator of Forests in Hassan, told *The Hindu* that the issue was raised with the Revenue Department officials on several occasions. "As there had been no action, the PCCF has now written to the ACS. He also sought action against Assistant Commissioner of Revenue Department, responsible for illegal grant," he said.

Cancellation process on

When V. Manjunath, Special Land Acquisition Officer in Hassan, was contacted, he said the process of cancelling grants, ordered against the law, was on. Upon verifying the documents, the orders would be cancelled, he said.

Karnataka Youth Policy: Draft outlines 10 focus areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

R. Balasubramaniam, chairman of the State Committee on Youth Policy, on Thursday submitted a draft of the Karnataka Youth Policy (KYP) 2022, to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The policy would be placed before a State Cabinet meeting for its approval. It has 10 focus areas.

The focus areas of the policy include education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, sports and fitness, arts and culture, value-based leadership development, restructuring the department, yuva budget, youth advisory group, and three C's approach – fostering coordination, cooperation, and collaboration – to ensure convergence; and establishing a State-level convergence committee for youth empowerment.

The policy envisages for all round development of youth and empower them to bring about constructive societal change. It also focuses on building human and social capital in a sustainable manner.

"Sustainable development is the guiding principle of the KYP 2022," the draft policy said.

This will make the policy implicitly inclusive and ensure that social, economic and environmental realities guide its implementation.

In alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the KYP, 2022, will be operational for a period of eight years until 2030.

Execute water project in time-bound manner: CM

'A few districts lagging in implementation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed the officials to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission project in a time-bound manner.

Speaking at the 'Disha' State-level review meeting, Mr. Bommai said tapped drinking water connections were provided for 19 lakh houses last year, and on an average, 7,000 houses are being connected every day.

The meeting found that though some districts have done well, a few districts are lagging behind in implementation. The Chief Minister instructed officials to set it right and achieve the annual target. He said that MLAs should visit their constituencies and submit the status report and hold 'Disha' meetings compulsorily in all the districts every quarter.

Mr. Bommai said that the DCs should take action to clear the pending crop insurance claims immediately and MPs' 'Adarsha Gram' Yojana works should be taken up on priority basis.

Farmers in flood-prone areas bank on 'Nereguli'

SATHISH G.T.
KANALE (SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT)

Heavy downpour has left vast tracts of paddy fields at villages in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district inundated, but the farmers in the villages of Saidur, Kanale and Hirenallur gram panchayats grow a flood-resistant traditional variety called Nereguli, which has stood them in good stead. Though the yield is less compared to others, this variety has higher rate of tolerance to flood.

Paddy fields inundated in the recent heavy rains in Sagar taluk. • PRAKASH HASSAN

"We have witnessed floods in our region for decades. Our forefathers found Nereguli paddy the best variety to cultivate in our area. The paddy did not lose its quality even when the field was inundated for 40 days," said Jayanth, a resident of Tadagalale in Saidur panchayat. Nowadays, he argued, with the extensive use of chemical fertilizers, this variety of paddy too could withstand flood only for 25 days. "Even then, it is a better variety for our climate condition," he added.

Nereguli variety yields about 15 bags of paddy, each weighing about 60 kg per acre. Though this is less compared to other popular varieties, farmers prefer this variety over others considering the local conditions.

"Small growers get yield that is sufficient for the family for a year. We have been cultivating the same variety for years," said Nagaraj of Beesanagadde village. The scientists of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga have taken the Nereguli variety for research. The researchers collected the sample from the field to assess its tolerance to flooding.

B.M. Dyshyanth Kumar, Professor in Genetics and Plant Breeding at the university, told *The Hindu* that this particular variety had been popular in flood-prone areas. The farmers had cultivated that variety traditionally for several years.

Crossing varieties

"There are such varieties in parts of Odisha and West Bengal, which are vulnerable to floods. We have collected samples from villages in parts of Hosanagar taluk and research is still on. The university has also developed a new variety of paddy by crossing Nereguli with other high-yielding paddy varieties. The field test is going on," said Dr. Kumar.

C.T. Ravi welcomes suggestion that ex-CM should contest against him

'Chikkamagaluru will give a befitting reply to Siddaramaiah'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi on Friday welcomed the suggestion by Karnataka Kisan Congress unit that Congress leader Siddaramaiah, who is scouting for constituency, should contest against him in Chikkamagaluru in the next Assembly elections.

"People of Chikkamagaluru are ready to give a befitting reply to him for showing injustice to them in terms of development when he was the Chief Minister," Mr. Ravi told *The Hindu*.

C.T. Ravi

Accusing Mr. Siddaramaiah of stalling several development works in Chikkamagaluru, Mr. Ravi said the former would get first- hand experience of people's wrath if he contests from Chikkamagaluru.

"Congress leaders are clearly aware that it will be difficult for Mr. Siddaramaiah to retain his deposit if he contests from Chikkamagaluru. They are still urging him to contest as they want him to experience bitter defeat," Mr. Ravi said. He listed several projects that were allegedly denied to the district during Mr. Siddaramaiah's tenure.

"People of the district are oriented towards nationalistic thoughts, Hindutva ideology, and development," he said, claiming Mr. Siddaramaiah is "bound to lose his deposit even if an ordinary party worker contests from Chikkamagaluru."

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CEK/TEC/ AE-1/ SHR_11KV/ 615 /2022-23 Date : 04-08-2022

-: TENDER NOTIFICATION:-

1) Detail of Work : Providing 11 KV Express feeder line to Kampapur(D) Jackwell from 110 MUSS at Devapur village and to WTP Kumbarpet circle and IPS near Govt. Hospital from 110 MUSS Sathyampet (existing tapping) under 2nd Stage WSS to Shorapur town. **Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2022-23/TL /WORK_INDENT3197,** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs.142.72 Lakhs** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs.2,15,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 04 Months (Including Monsoon), 6) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications: 12-08-2022 Up to 11:00 Hours, 7) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: 20-08-2022 Up to 17:00 Hours, 8) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : 22-08-2022 After 11:00 Hours, 9) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 9) Address of E-portal: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

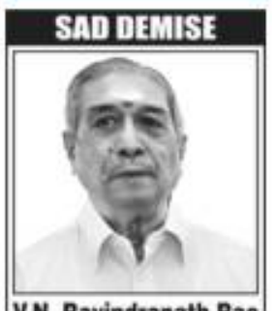
Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board,
Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/469/MC&A/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



V.N. Ravindranath Rao
(15-08-1942 - 05-08-2022)
Former General Secretary
IOB Officers' Association
IOBOA dips its banner
in memory of the Reverred Leader

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. (Mrs.) Y.G.P
(27-11-1925 - 06-08-2019)
Shree Gurubhyo Namaha

Dear Mrs. YGP
You have etched your name on infinity
When infinity indeed was your variety
It's little wonder that you accomplished
wondrous feats Inspiring blossoms to
fantasize and live their dreams
You were a born leader with a colourful
paradigm Fostering thought leaders in
their prime Your intrinsic sparks were
a treasure trove of brilliant diversity
A creative marvel, a mesmerising
combination - You were the master of
time management Your life- a lesson
on time travel So deftly you wove past
into the future
To co-create a new world order-
We salute you, our iconic vishwa guru
Forever Yours -

Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007563

TENDER ALERT

1)Bid Identification No.OPTCL-CVL-SE-E-03/22-23: SE (Civil), Civil Works Circle, OPTCL, Bhubaneswar on behalf of OPTCL, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system with e-RA in online mode only for "Construction of new office building for BCDD-II at Nayapalli" at an estimated cost of Rs.8.28 Crore.

Further details can be seen from the website **http://tenderodisha.gov.in** and **www.optcl.co.in.**

2) E-Tender Notice No. CPC-10/2022-23: Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of 01 no. of 132kV equipped bay and 01 no. unequipped bay with 132kV bus extension through 132kV 1C 1000Sqmm XLPE cable at 132/33 kV Grid Sub-Station, Kesura at an estimated cost of Rs.2.90 Crore on Turnkey Contract Basis in E-tendering mode only.

Complete set of bidding documents are available on the tender portal:**www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-19/2022-23
CAD-1401 OPR-04011/11/0074/2223

Deputy Commissioner Office,
Kolar District, Kolar
(District Urban Development Cell, Kolar)
E-Mail :- pdkolar@gmail.com
Phone & Fax No.08152-243555
No.DUDC/TECH/BANGARPET/NAGAROTHANA-4/CR/3(4)/2021-22
Date :01.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(as per the conditions of the Standard Tender Document E-Procurement Tender Notification)

Constructions of Roads, Drains, Buildings & Other infrastructure Works in Bangarpet TMC item rate is invited in two bid cover system through E-Procurement Portal as per the GO.No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from Registered. Eligible Contractors, GST 12% will be given extra on the estimate. For details visit **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through e-procurement only. **(1)** Work Indent No: **DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT135054. Constructions of Roads, Drains & Other infrastructure Works to TMC Bangarpet limits under Amrut Nagarothana-4 (Municipality) scheme.** Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs): **404.95. (1)** Tender submission form through E-Procurement last date: **02.09.2022, Time:17.30** **(2)** Technical Bids Opening date: **05.09.2022, Time:10.00** **(3)** Financial Bid Opening date: **12.09.2022, Time: 10.00.**

Sd/- Exeuctive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell
Kolar District
ಜ.ನ.ಸಂ.ಇ./ಕೋಲಾರ/ ಅ.ಗ.ಒ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ226/ ಎಂಎಂ/ 2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

IN BRIEF

'People moving towards a global culture'

HYDERABAD

Driven by the winds of globalisation, people are moving towards a global culture which is emerging as a threat to local cultural symbols and identities, even as social media, television and pop culture glamourise a particular way of life that the people are sadly "blindly aping", Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said on Friday, at the 82nd convocation of Osmania University here.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy meets Amit Shah

HYDERABAD

Bhongir Member of Parliament and senior Congress leader Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi fuelling the speculation that he would soon follow his brother Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, who resigned from the Congress and decided to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Mr. Reddy, however, denied that his meeting was related to his leaving the Congress. He said he met Mr. Shah to seek flood relief funds for Telangana.

Suspected monkeypox case in Kochi

KOCHI

A 29-year-old native of Uttar Pradesh, who arrived at the Cochin international airport in Nedumbassery from Jeddah, was shifted to the taluk hospital at Aluva on Friday morning after he showed suspected symptoms of monkeypox. The blood samples of the person were set to be sent to the National Institute of Virology, Alappuzha, on the day, according to V. Jayasree, District Medical Officer. His symptoms include fever and suspected vesicular skin lesions.

Kerala continues to be on alert

Forecast warns of isolated heavy rainfall in some districts over the weekend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Most of the districts reported a marked reduction in rain intensity on Friday, but Kerala continues to remain on alert as rainfall forecasts warned of isolated heavy rainfall in some districts over the weekend.

No deaths were reported on the day in rain-related incidents.

A holiday has been declared for educational institutions in Alappuzha district on Saturday. The Pathanamthitta district administration has declared a holiday for educational institutions where relief camps have been opened.

As on Friday, 12,195 people, including 2,087 children, were put up at 342 camps across various districts. Four houses were reported destroyed and 46 houses damaged.

Eleven teams of the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed in various districts, while one column of the Army and two Defence Security Corps teams are on standby.

An India Meteorological Department update indicated that intense rainfall activity is likely to continue over Kerala for two more days. Cyclonic circulations persist over north coastal Andhra Pradesh and and adjoining part of the Bay of Bengal, and over central parts of Karnataka. Four districts – Idukki, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod – are on yellow alert on Saturday and Sunday for isolated heavy rainfall (6.4 cm to 11.5 cm in a 24-hour period).

A low pressure area is likely to form over the north-west and adjoining west-central part of the Bay of Bengal around August 7. An extended range forecast of the IMD also pointed to the possibility of another low pressure area likely over the Bay region around August 13 or 14.

The heavy rainfall over the past few days have destroyed agricultural crops in 2,755.81 hectares across the State, affecting 26,059 farmers, as per a crop loss report prepared by the Agriculture department. The losses were reported during the period from July 31 to August 5, and pegs the estimated loss at ₹73.44 crore. Ernakulam has suffered the heaviest loss as per the report. Losses in the district have been pegged at ₹18.08 crore.

Narrow escape: A car that plunged into a swollen canal near Kottayam following heavy rains. Four passengers, including a toddler, were rescued by local residents. • VISHNU PRATHAP

10 shutters of Mullaperiyar dam opened

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

Tamil Nadu opened 10 shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam releasing 7,807 cusecs of water on Friday. Kerala will be informed in case of release of more water.

The shutters were opened by 30 cm after the Vaigai dam, where water from Mullaperiyar is stored, got filled by afternoon. Tamil Nadu issued the first warning for releasing water on Thursday night. Though it was decided to open the shutters by 11.30 a.m. on Friday, it was postponed following a decline in inflow to the Mullaperiyar dam.

The decision to release water when it reached 136 ft was to adhere to the rule curve level decided by the Central Water Commission. At 1 p.m., 534 cusecs of water was released through six shutters and by 5 p.m., four more shutters were opened and a total of 1,870 cusecs of water was released during the period in a phased manner, PWD engineers said and added that 2,160 cusecs of water was released into Tamil Nadu side so as to ensure that the storage level was maintained as per the rule curve theory.

Kerala Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine and Peerumedu MLA Vazhoor Soman visited the Vallakadavu area and assessed the situation. Mr. Augustine said there was no need to panic and the situation was being monitored. A Kerala State Electricity Board official said there was no possibility of opening the Idukki dam shutters. It could take the water released from the Mullaperiyar dam at the present level. However, the situation was being monitored, he said.

A spokesman from the Idukki district administration office told reporters that from the time the Tamil Nadu government officials had announced the release of water, people living along the Periyar river were alerted to move to safe places.

The Kerala government had requested Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to ensure that surplus water was not released during night like last time. Hence, the PWD engineers opened the shutters at 1 p.m., the officials at the site said.

(With inputs from Gudalur)

27 caste murder case convicts get life term

STAFF REPORTER
SIVAGANGA

The Special Court for Exclusive Trial of Cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Sivaganga on Friday imposed life sentence on 27 convicts involved in the murder of three Scheduled Caste villagers at Kachanatham in Sivaganga district in 2018.

On May 28, 2018, a group of persons belonging to a dominant community attacked Scheduled Caste villagers with deadly weapons. The assailants were enraged that the members of the Scheduled Caste had failed to present them temple honours and were sitting cross-legged in their presence.

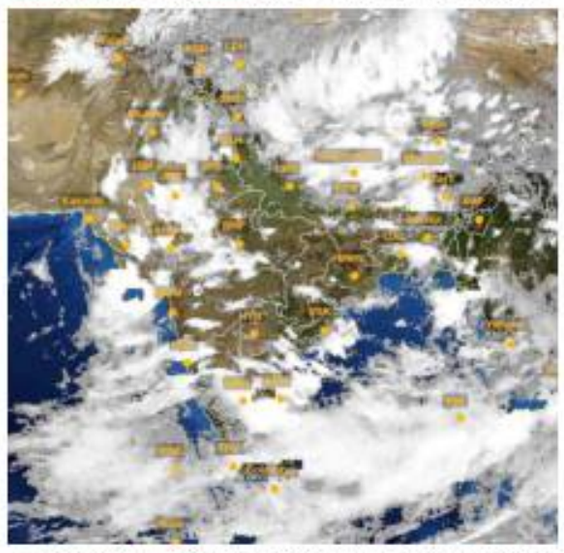
K. Arumugam, A. Shanmuganathan and V. Chandrasekhar were hacked to death and Dhanasekaran, who sustained injuries, died of health complications a year later.

Judge G. Muthukumaran convicted 27 accused persons on August 1.

Members of the dominant Agamudayar community was enraged that the Pallars (Devendra Kula Velalar) did not present them 'kalanji' (honours) of the Karuppansamy temple, as was the practice earlier. The discontinuation of the practice, the judge said in his view, "certainly amounts to detachment of brotherhood and a kind of discrimination on the other community." Though refusal of 'kalanji' would have caused an unhidden scar on the accused persons, and "indeed it would have provoked their nerves", the judge said, "civilised man shall think in a civilised manner and should not have acted barbarically."

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Meghalaya, Nagaland, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	8	35.3	27.1	Kozhikode	46	26.2	22.9
Ahmedabad	10	32.5	26.8	Kurnool	3	31.6	23.8
Aizawl	0.1	27.2	22.6	Lucknow	5.8	35.1	26.2
Allahabad	–	36.3	28.0	Madurai	1	32.6	24.9
Bengaluru	7.8	24.3	20.0	Mangaluru	110.3	24.2	22.1
Bhopal	4.6	–	24.0	Mumbai	25	29.9	25.4
Bhubaneswar	2.7	32.1	25.6	Mysuru	52	26.0	19.6
Chandigarh	–	32.9	27.6	New Delhi	0.8	30.4	26.5
Chennai	–	33.1	26.4	Patna	–	35.5	27.7
Coimbatore	6	28.4	22.0	Port Blair	6	30.6	23.4
Dehradun	0.7	31.4	24.0	Puducherry	8.2	31.2	24.2
Gangtok	0.2	24.2	18.3	Pune	8.2	31.1	22.6
Goa	8	27.5	23.6	Raipur	0.3	34.0	25.2
Guwahati	–	35.6	26.1	Ranchi	0.2	32.7	24.7
Hubballi	–	25.0	22.0	Shillong	77	24.9	17.5
Hyderabad	4	31.7	23.4	Shimla	12	25.2	19.6
Imphal	–	31.9	21.1	Srinagar	–	29.9	20.0
Jaipur	0.2	31.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	4	30.2	23.6
Kochi	33	27.6	23.0	Tiruchi	0.6	31.9	25.5
Kohima	12	24.8	16.0	Vijayawada	0.4	31.7	25.8
Kolkata	–	34.5	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	33.0	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	103	30	7	49	77	
Bengaluru	22	34	160	–	42	
Chennai	11	13	28	73	62	
Delhi	14	14	90	76	85	
Hyderabad	24	31	107	35	48	
Kolkata	5	34	12	20	32	
Lucknow	8	78	36	84	86	
Mumbai	9	3	29	260	211	
Pune	–	46	102	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	14	36	18	37	77	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Buxar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 267 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity)
UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Technology Centre, Bengaluru

Vacancy circular for filling up of various posts on deputation basis (Foreign Service term) in Technology Centre, Bengaluru

Ref : Vacancy circular of UIDAI issued vide even number dated 03.06.2022 (Website Link-(https://uidai.gov.in/images/career/Vacancy_Circular_for_various_posts_at_UIDAI_Technology_Centre_Bengaluru.pdf) invites applications for the posts of (i) Deputy Director (Technology), (ii) Assistant Director (Technology), (iii) Technical Officer and (iv) Section Officer (v) Assistant Section Officer (vi) Assistant Technical Officer on deputation basis (Foreign Service Terms) at its Technology Centre at Bengaluru.

2. The date for submission of applications of above mentioned posts, is hereby extended upto **18.08.2022**. Those who have applied against circular dated 03.06.2022 need not apply afresh. However, new applicants may submit their applications to **Director (HR) Unique Identification Authority of India, Aadhaar Complex, NTI Layout, Tata Nagar, Kodigehalli, Technology Centre, Bengaluru - 560092** within the extended date. Since this vacancy is to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)

New Aadhaar Enrolment & Updation Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit UIDAI.GOV.IN or call 1947

TREASURIES AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Tamil Nadu Treasuries and Accounts Department, Nandanam, Chennai is proposed to invite tender through two bid systems vide technical and finance on Request for Proposal for the Selection of System Integrator to Design, Develop and Maintain the Software Application under Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System [TNPFTS].

The details regarding Request for Proposal and other conditions may be downloaded from the URL **https://www.tn.gov.in/karuvoolam/** and **https://tntenders.gov.in at FREE OF COST.**

Quotations in sealed envelopes clearly mentioning name of tenderers must reach the office on the specified dates as mentioned in respective tender document which will be opened on the same day in the presence of bidders/authorized representatives at the address given below:

**Commissioner of Treasuries and Accounts,
3rd Floor, Perasiriyar K.Anbazhagan Maaligai,
No.571, Anna Salai, Nandanam,
Chennai-35.**

DIPR/3679/Tender/2022

"செலவுகள் சுமந்து சுமையற்ற அலுவலர்க்கு சலுகை பயிற்று சரிந்திற்ற பலப்படும்"

कार्यालय नगर विकास प्रन्यास, उदयपुर

No.: F-2 (01) Acct/Contract/2022/153-155 Date : 01.08.2022

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या : 31/2022–23

नगर विकास प्रन्यास, उदयपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों मय डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी अवधि के लिये जो कि निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित हैं के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:–

निविदा कार्यों की कुल लागत	:	रूपये 596.00 लाख (01 कार्य)
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/ अपलोड करने की अवधि	:	03.08.2022 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 22.08.2022 को सांय 6.00 बजे तक
Online EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee जमा कराने की तिथि	:	03.08.2022 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 22.08.2022 को सांय 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि	:	23.08.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे

विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitudaipur, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पे www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

UBN No.: ITU2223WLOB00329

अधिशाषी अभियंता–चतुर्थ
नगर विकास प्रन्यास, उदयपुर

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE/SWD/MDP/TEND/07/2022-23 Date: 05-08-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Executive Engineer (SWD - Mahadevapura Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender Rs. in Lakhs	EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary Storm Water Drains, Culverts / Bridges & allied Works of SWD spread out at Various Locations in Ward No. 150 of Mahadevapura Constituency Under GOK grant of 2022-23 **Package-1 (Action Plan 235, 236, 237, 243, 244, 254) - Call-2**	**1786.00**	**17.86 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh** through e-Payment and **Rs. 16.86 Lakhs** in the form of BG)

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting: **10-08-2022, 15.00 Hrs. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Bid Document: **16-08-2022, 16.00 Hrs. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **18-08-2022, 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD, Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ARULMIGHU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, SAMAYAPURAM,
Mannachanallur Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District – 621 112. Phone 0431 -2678460.
Email : syammariammn@gmail.com Temple Website : https://samayapurammariamman.hrce.tn.gov.in

R.C.No. 12884/1431/ C4. **The hair collection license by Electronic auction Advertisement** Date : 05.08.2022
Electronic Auction Date : 07.09.2022. Time : 02.00 PM
Online pre qualification / Technical Eligibility perusal Date : 06.09.2022 Time : 12.30 PM
Detail

Name of the license & Period	E - Deposit sum in Rupees
Collection of Human hair from devotees Samayapuram Arulmighu Mariamman Temple and its sub temple Inam Samayapuram Arulmighu Adi Mariamman temple devotees from 06.08.2022 to 30.06.2023 (through e-tender to be conducted by MSTC on behalf of the temple)	**50,00,000/-** (Rs fifty lakh only)

Those who want to participate in the e-tender to be conducted by MSTC shall contact website at the address **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and register themselves with MSTC.

Conditions for this license and details / doubts regarding e-auction procedure can be found through this website. Also, you can contact MSTC through the following mobile numbers 9499054101, 9499054102, 9499054103, 9499054104 and 9444976369.

DPR/ 3677 / TENDER/2022 **S.Kalyani,M.L.,**
"செலவுகள் சுமந்து சுமையற்ற அலுவலர்க்கு சலுகை பயிற்று சரிந்திற்ற பலப்படும்" Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer/ Fit Person

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, MR. BANDI MAHESH BABU is the absolute owner of the Residential Property bearing Site No. 46 Khatha No. 264 in the Survey No. 7/4, measuring East to West – 45 feet and North to South – 30 feet in all totally measuring 1350 Square Feet, situated at Devarachikkanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore, South Taluk. Our client has lost/misplaced the original Unregistered General Power of Attorney dated 13.11.1998 with respect to the above said property.

Our client has already lodged the Police Complaint on 04.08.2022 in the jurisdictional Police Station vide lost Report No. 0385285/2022 U/s 155 Crpc of Lost Article Report. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title & interest over the above said Property or on aforesaid mentioned original document may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within **10 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that the said original general Power of Attorney is lost.

It is hereby informed that, the General public are restrained from transacting the above said Property except our client/his nominees. If any person holding the said original General Power of Attorney may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.

Dated this 06.08.2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No.428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main
HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore-560102.
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690.

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY Office of the Deputy Director, Bagalkote-587103 Phone:08354-297534

No.DMG/BGK/Iron Ore auction/2022-23 Date: 05/08/2022

e-AUCTION PUBLICATION

Invites the e-applications for auction of Iron Ore Sy No. 138/3, 138/4, 126/1B & 126/2 of Ihole Villege, Hungund Taluk Bagalkote District. Interested persons/companies/firm/agencies can participate by registering themselves.

Auction No. MSTC/BLR/Office of the Deputy Director Department of Mines and Geology/Bagalkote/1/Bagalkote/22-23/6955[332572] Auction documents and annexure can be downloaded from the e-auction website https://www.mstcecommerce.com. Last date for uploading the Annexure and submission of e-application is 23-08-2022. Live bidding is scheduled on 25-08-2022. Application and Bids shall be submitted through e-procurement platform only.

For information about auction/registration contact MSTC office 080-22260054/22266417/7411651015. Email: sjain@mstcindia.co.in

Sd/-Deputy Director/e-Auction
Inviting Authority Department of Mines & Geology, Bagalkote

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No.16 C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No:KERC/DD-Trans/Wheeling Banking/2020-21/628 Date: 05-08-2022

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: Public Hearing on the Study Report of Financial Impact of Wheeling and Banking arrangement, carried out consequent to issue of the Discussion Paper on 'Wheeling Charges and Banking Facility' for Renewable Energy Power Projects.

The Commission issued a Discussion Paper on 'Wheeling Charges and Banking Facility' for Renewable Energy Power Projects inviting Comments / Views / Suggestions from stakeholders and has received written Comments / Views / Suggestions from several persons. The Commission also held a public hearing in the matter on 27-01-2021 through Video Conferencing. Considering the Comments / Views / Suggestions received from the stakeholders, the Commission directed KPTCL / ESCOMs to conduct a financial impact study of Wheeling and Banking arrangement. PCKL through Prayas. Pune has conducted the study on behalf of KPTCL / ESCOMs and has submitted the study report. The study report is hosted on the KERC's Website: **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

The Commission invites written Comments / Views / Suggestions from Stakeholders on the above study report, latest by **31-08-2022**, which may be sent to the **Secretary, KERC.**

Meanwhile, the Commission has scheduled a public hearing in the matter **on 08-09-2022 in the Court Hall of the Commission at 11.00 AM.** Stakeholders / Interested Persons may participate in the hearing and submit their views in person before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP No. 3498 / Dated: 05.08.2022

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Odisha intends to engage extension functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA). Hence, Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE), Bhubaneswar of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Odisha invites sealed proposal from the eligible bidders for "Engagement of extension functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme" under the administrative control of IMAGE, Odisha.

The RFP Document containing **details of scope of work, professional requirements and other bidding parameters** can be accessed and downloaded from the website of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department at **www.agri.odisha.gov.in & www.odisha.gov.in**

Important dates for the bidding process:

Sl No.	Critical Events	Time Line
1	Date of Issue of RFP	05.08.2022
2	Submission of Pre Bid Queries	16.08.2022 up to 5.30 PM
3	Pre Bid Meeting	19.08.2022 at 03.30 PM
4	Publication of Pre Bid Clarification	22.08.2022
5	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	12.09.2022 up to 5.30 PM
6	Opening of Technical Bid	13.09.2022 up to 11.30 AM
7	Technical Presentation	20.09.2022 at 3.30 PM
8	Opening of Financial Bid	23.09.2022 at 03.30 PM

The proposal complete in all respect in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning on the top of it **"Selection of Agency for Engagement of Extension Functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme"** must reach the undersigned through **Speed Post / Registered Post / By hand in Drop box of IMAGE latest by 12.09.2022 up to 5.30 PM**. The proposals received beyond the scheduled date and time shall not be considered and will be out rightly rejected. Further, the authority reserves the right to reject any/all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment
Siripur, Bhubaneswar - 751001
Website: www.agri.odisha.gov.in, www.odisha.gov.in
Email: imagebbsr1999@gmail.com
Phone: 0674-2974145

CAD-1396 OIPR-01408/11/6010/2223

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that our client has entered into an agreement to develop the immovable property described in Item Nos. 1 & 2 of the Schedule hereunder (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Schedule Property") with Mr. C. Kumar, son of Chenniappan. The aforesaid Mr. C. Kumar has represented to our client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property having uninhibited rights of alienation over the same and that none else has any manner of right over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within Fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for development of the Schedule Property by our client.

SCHEDULE (Description of the Schedule Property)

Item – 1
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing agricultural land bearing Survey No. 155 measuring 2 Acres, situated in Konmasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and bounded as follows:
On the East by : Road;
On the West by : Property described in Item No. 2;
On the North by : Land bearing Survey No. 156; and
On the South by : Remaining portion of land in Survey No. 155 retained by Mr. Thimmaraya Reddy alias Thimmarayappa.

Item - 2
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing agricultural land bearing Survey No. 49 measuring 3 Acres 18 Guntas, situated in Kaggalipura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and bounded as follows:
On the East by : Property described in Item No. 1;
On the West by : Land belonging to Mr. Balakrishna, Mr. Jagadish, Mr. Venappa alias Venu and Mr. Ravikumar in Survey No. 49;
On the North by : Harohalli Village Boundary; and
On the South by : Land bearing Survey No. 80.

CRESTLAW PARTNERS Advocates **A. Supreeth, Partner**
No. 33, Xavier Layout, 1st Cross, Victoria Road, Bengaluru – 560 047
Ph: 080 – 4147 3535/36/37
E-mail: supreeth@crestlawpartners.in
Place : Bengaluru
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A fresh opportunity

Bill's withdrawal is a chance to check lacunae, but a data protection law brooks no delay

The stated reason for the Government's withdrawal of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, was that it will come up with a "comprehensive legal framework" on data privacy and Internet regulation. The Government has averred that a new draft will be in sync with the principles of privacy, in line with Supreme Court guidelines based on the landmark judgment on privacy, i.e., *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India*, and would consider the Joint Committee of Parliament's recommendations on the framework to regulate the digital ecosystem. The 2019 Bill had been rightly criticised by stakeholders, including Justice B.N. Srikrishna – he chaired a committee of experts that had authored a draft bill in 2018 – for overemphasising the national security angle, among other reasons. The 2019 Bill diverged from the Srikrishna Committee Draft in the selection of the chairperson and members of the Data Protection Authority (DPA) that shall protect the interests of data principals, and in the leeway given to the Union government to exempt its agencies from the application of the Act. The 2018 draft Bill allowed for judicial oversight in the selection process for the DPA, while the 2019 Bill limited the composition to the executive. The 2018 Bill allowed for exemptions to be granted to state institutions from acquiring informed consent from data principals or to process data in the case of matters relating only to the "security of the state"; it also called for a law to provide for "parliamentary oversight and judicial approval of non-consensual access to personal data". In contrast, the 2019 Bill added "public order" as a reason to exempt a government agency from the Act, besides only providing for these reasons to be recorded in writing.

By choosing to withdraw the Bill, it is unclear whether the Government would address the demand for a realignment of the legislation with the 2018 draft Bill that came about after extensive consultations with civil society. Or whether this would be more in line with the JPC report, which has also been criticised by civil society for retaining provisions that allow the Government access to private data of citizens without sufficient safeguards. Dissent notes to the JPC report, by Congress MP Jairam Ramesh for example, went on to criticise the leeway granted to the Government on exemptions and how the ground of "public order" and not "security of the state" was liable for misuse. It is not clear if the Bill's withdrawal is linked to opposition to mandatory "data localisation" from multinational Internet companies. Meanwhile, the lack of a proper data protection law in the country is an anomaly when compared with major countries. If the Government is indeed committed to a comprehensive legal framework on data privacy and protection, it must revert to the baseline provided in the Justice Srikrishna Committee recommendations and enact a law within a reasonable timeline.

Sticking to commitments

India must set an example by balancing energy use and climate goals

Ahead of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27), in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November, the Union Cabinet has approved India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a formal statement detailing its action plan to address climate change. The 2015 Paris Agreement requires countries to spell out a pathway to ensure the globe does not heat beyond 2°C, and endeavour to keep it below 1.5°C by 2100. The subsequent COPs are a quibbling arena where countries coax, cajole and make compromises on the cuts they can undertake over multi-decadal timelines with the least impact on their developmental priorities. While the end product of the COP is a joint agreement, signed by all member countries, the real business begins after, where countries must submit NDCs every five years, mapping what will be done post 2020 to stem fossil-fuel emissions. India's first NDC, in 2015, specified eight targets, the most salient of them being reducing the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%-35% (of 2005 levels) by 2030, having 40% of its installed electricity capacity sourced from renewable energy, and creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2030. Being a large, populous country, India has high net emissions but low per-capita emissions. It has also, by participating in COPs for decades, made the case that the existing climate crisis is largely due to industrialisation by the U.S. and developed European countries since 1850. However, years of negotiations, international pressure and clearer evidence of the multi-dimensional impact from climate change have seen India agree to move away from fossil fuels over time.

At COP 26 in Glasgow in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out five commitments, or 'Panchamrit', as the Government references it, which included India increasing its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030 and achieving "Net Zero" by 2070, or no net carbon dioxide emitted from energy sources. However, the press statement on the Cabinet decision was silent on whether India would cut emissions by a billion tons and on creating carbon sinks. While India is within its right to specify its emissions pathway, it should not – at any forum – promise more than what it can deliver as this undermines the moral authority that India brings to future negotiations. India has expressed its intent, via several legislations, to use energy efficiently and many of its biggest corporations have committed to shifting away from polluting energy sources. Going ahead, these should be grounds for India, at its pace, to be an exemplar for balancing energy use, development and meeting climate goals.

Lessons for India from the Taiwan standoff

New Delhi must note that Taiwan's close economic links with China have not stopped Taipei from asserting its rights

HAPPYMON JACOB

The brief visit by the United States House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan, against stern warnings issued by China, has the potential to increase the already deteriorating relationship between the U.S. and China, with major implications for Taiwan. For China, its claims about a rising superpower might ring hollow if it is unable to unify its claimed territories, in particular Taiwan. For the U.S., it is about re-establishing steadily-diminishing American credibility in the eyes of its friends and foes. For Taiwan, it is about standing up to Chinese bullying and making its red lines clear to Beijing. The crisis that began with the visit of Ms. Pelosi to Taipei is still unfolding and there is little clarity today on how it will wind down even though it is unlikely to lead to a full-scale invasion of Taiwan or a war between China and the U.S.

For those of us in India watching the events as they unfold around Taiwan, there are valuable lessons to be learnt. To begin with, consider this. A small island of 23 million people has decided to stand up to one of the strongest military and economic powers on the planet, braving existential consequences. India is a far more powerful nation armed with nuclear weapons and with a 1.4 million standing military against whom China has only marginal territorial claims. And yet, India continues to be hesitant about calling China's bluff.

To be fair, there is growing recognition in New Delhi that it is important to meet the challenge posed by a belligerent China, but there appears to be a lack of clarity on how to meet this challenge. To that extent, the Taiwan crisis offers New Delhi three lessons, at the very least.

Unambiguous messaging

The most important lesson from the Taiwan standoff for policymakers in New Delhi is the importance of articulating red lines and sovereign positions in an unambiguous manner. New Delhi needs to unambiguously highlight the threat from China and the sources of such a threat. Any absence of such clarity will be cleverly utilised by Beijing to push Indian limits, as we have already seen. More pertinently, Beijing, like everyone else analysing the Indian reactions to the standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 2020, realises that one of the major reasons behind New Delhi's rather muddled articulation of the Chinese aggression two years ago is domestic political calculations.

Till date, India's leadership has not clarified to the country what really went on at the border in 2020 and whether China continues to be in illegal occupation of Indian territory. When domestic political calculations prevent India's leaders from acknowledging the China threat, it provides Beijing the cover of ambiguity to pursue its territorial claims *vis-à-vis* India.

Moreover, Chinese Psy-Ops will continue to exploit the absence of a national position or narrative in India about the threat that China poses. Even worse, ambiguous messaging by India also confuses its friends in the international community: If India does not clearly articulate that China is in illegal occupation of its territory, how can it expect its friends in the international community to support India diplomatically or otherwise? In other words, India's current policy of 'hide and seek' *vis-à-vis* China amounts to poor messaging, and confusing to its own people as well as the larger international community, and is therefore counterproductive.

Appeasement is bad strategy

Taiwan could have avoided the ongoing confrontation and the economic blockade during Chinese retaliatory military exercises around its territory by avoiding Ms. Pelosi's visit to Taipei, or perhaps even keeping it low key. Instead, it chose to go ahead with the visit, with high-profile meetings and statements in full public view, thereby making it clear to China that it is unwilling to back down from its declared aims, no matter what the consequences were. Appeasement of China, Taiwan knows, is not the answer to Beijing's aggression.

China today is a revisionist power, challenging the regional order; is intent on using force to meet its strategic objectives, and is desirous of reshaping the regional balance of power to suit its interests. With such a power, appeasement might work in the short term, but will invariably backfire over the long term. If so, we in India may be guilty of playing into Chinese hands by committing four mistakes.

First, India's policy of meeting/hosting Chinese leaders while the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) continue(d) to violate established territorial norms on the LAC is a deeply flawed one. Recall the stand-off at Demchok and Chumar during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India in 2014, and the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, earlier this year, to India again, even as Chinese troops continue to be in occupation of Indian territory. While one could argue that diplomacy must go on despite the problems on the border, there is indeed a danger of Beijing viewing such diplomacy as examples of India's acquiescence despite provocations.

The second mistake is unilaterally catering to Chinese sensitivities even during the standoffs between the two militaries. For instance, the parliamentary delegation visits and legislature-level dialogues between India and Taiwan have not taken place since 2017, coinciding with the Doklam standoff which took place that year. Why bother respecting Chinese political sensitives around Taiwan or Tibet when it is in illegal occupation of Indian territory, and seeks more territory from India?

The third mistake was the soft-peddling of the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the United States) when China objected to it. During the 2000s, India (as well as Australia) decided to soft-peddle the Quad in the face of strong Chinese objections. It is only in the last two years or so that we have witnessed renewed enthusiasm around the Quad. In retrospect, appeasing Beijing by almost abandoning the Quad was bad strategy.

Perhaps the gravest mistake India has made has been the non-acknowledgement of the PLA's intrusion into Indian territory in 2020, and its capture and occupation of Indian territory along the LAC since. Let us be clear: unwilling to acknowledge China's illegal occupation of Indian territory along the LAC, for whatever reason, amounts to an ill-advised appeasement strategy, which must end.

Flawed argument

It is often argued that the growing economic and trading relationship between India and China is reason enough to ensure that tensions between the two sides do not escalate, and that the two sides must find ways of co-existing peacefully. While it appears to be a sound argument, let me pose that argument somewhat differently: is the economic relationship reason enough for India to continue to ignore recurring Chinese incursions on the LAC and keep making territorial compromises? Put differently, given that the economic relationship is a two-way process and that, as a matter of fact, the trade deficit is in China's favour, China too has a lot to lose from a damaged trade relationship with India. More so, if the Taiwan example (as well as the India-China standoff in 2020) is anything to go by, trade can continue to take place despite tensions and without India making any compromises *vis-à-vis* its sovereign claims.

Consider this. Mainland China is Taiwan's largest trading partner, and China has an annual trade deficit of around $80 billion to $130 billion with Taiwan. More so, investments from Taiwan to China were to the tune of $198.3 billion by 2021, whereas investments from mainland China to Taiwan were only $2.5 billion from 2009 to 2021. In other words, Taiwan knows that despite the sabre-rattling by Beijing, given the economic interdependence between the two sides, China is unlikely to stop trading with Taiwan for, after all, China is dependent on the semiconductors produced in Taiwan in a big way.

In other words, the close economic relationship with China has not stopped Taiwan from asserting its rights, nor has it backed down under Chinese threats. So, should India, a far bigger economy and a military power, buckle under Chinese pressure worrying about the economic relationship with China? India for sure should do business with China, but not on China's own terms.

Happymon Jacob is Associate Professor, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Addressing the challenges in new-age digital commerce

Online Dispute Resolution, or ODR, can help mitigate litigation risk and provide insights into consumer problems

BHAVEN SHAH &
SIDHARTH KAPOOR

India's consumer behaviour has experienced a radical transformation at the most fundamental levels. The rise in smartphone use fuelled by affordable data plans has catalysed an online revolution in the country. The novel coronavirus pandemic has further accelerated the process of digital inclusion, and it is now not only routine to transact online and have food, personal care items or anything else delivered at the one's doorstep, but it is also common to learn online, have medical consultations online, and even resolve disputes online.

These realisations have given India the opportunity to disrupt the status quo with its innovative abilities. Systems such as the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission have reengineered markets.

Despite the rapid advancement of digital platforms on the one hand and the pervasiveness of the Internet-enabled phone on the other, small enterprises such as local *kirana* stores have not gained from this. Online purchases from "near and now" inventory from the local store remain in a digital vacuum. This is because, to sell on numerous platforms, sellers must maintain a separate infrastructure, which only adds costs and limits participation. The distinct terms and conditions of each platform further limit the sellers' flexibility. Consequently, small and medium-sized businesses have lost their freedom to choose and participate in the country's e-commerce system at their will and on their terms. Alarmingly, centralising digital commerce transactions on a single platform creates a single point of failure.

Wider choice and access

Given this objective, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Government of India established the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to level the playing field by developing open e-commerce and enabling access to small businesses and dealers. The ONDC network makes it possible for products and services from all participating e-commerce platforms to be displayed in search results across all network apps. For instance, a consumer shopping for a product on an e-commerce app named "X" would also receive results from e-commerce app named "Y", if both X and Y integrated their platforms with the ONDC. This achieves the dual objective of wider choice for consumers on the one hand and access to a wider consumer base for sellers on the other.

The ONDC began its pilot in five cities in April 2022, i.e., New Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong. Currently, the pilot has expanded to 18 cities, and there are immediate plans to add more cities. With India's e-commerce industry set to reach $200 billion by 2027, this shift from a platform-centric paradigm to democratisation of the nation's online market will catalyse the inclusion of millions of small business owners and *kirana* businesses.

GETTY IMAGES

Better outcomes

Disputes will be the obvious by-product of this e-commerce revolution. Therefore, it is imperative to support this initiative with a modern-day, cost-effective, timely and high-speed dispute resolution system. The framework must adequately and efficiently cater to facets such as participants residing or operating in different geographic regions and the mass prevalence of low-value online transactions. Online Dispute Resolution, or ODR as it is popularly called, has the propensity to work alongside the incumbent setup and deliver quick, affordable and enforceable outcomes. The ODR is not restricted to the use of legal mechanisms such as mediation, conciliation and arbitration in an online environment but can be tailormade for the specific use case keeping the participants in mind. While the ODR commonly involves case management systems, integration of communication technologies such as email, SMS, WhatsApp, Interactive Voice Response, audio/video conferencing, overtime and with appropriate data sets in place, it can also involve advanced automation, the use of technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to enable resolutions at the same time as it would take to initiate a transaction over the network.

From making dispute resolution simple to handling complex multi-party disputes; from 24x7 accessibility from the remotest regions to availability in regional languages; from enabling a safe and secure online infrastructure to ensuring minimal touchpoints, the ODR can not only digitise the entire value chain but can also facilitate an enhanced user experience.

Many e-commerce companies have turned to the ODR with the realisation that in order to maximise transactions it is important to ensure a positive dispute resolution experience. For example, the eBay Resolution Center uses the ODR and resolves over 60 million disputes between small traders every year through a platform that enables dealers and purchasers to directly communicate and, for the most part, without the assistance of a third party. Alibaba, one of the world's largest retailers and e-commerce companies, too has adopted the ODR to resolve disputes arising out of transactions over the platform.

There is growing adoption

The ODR is no more a distant dream for India as well. Governments, regulators and private enterprises have been adopting and encouraging its use. For instance, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has mandated platforms in the UPI ecosystem to adopt the ODR for complaints and grievances connected to failed transactions. Ingram, SEBI SCORES (or the Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI COm plaints REdress System), RBI CMS (or the Reserve Bank of India Complaint Management System), MahaRERA (or the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority), MSME Samadhaan (or the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Delayed Payment Monitoring System), and RTIOnline (or the Right to Information Online) are other examples of ODR systems that are widely used in the country.

The ODR will help mitigate litigation risk and provide valuable insights into problems faced by consumers. The courts and consumer forums can do away with matters which do not warrant their intervention, thus easing the judicial logjam. Consumers are provided with another choice for effective redress of their grievances, thereby building trust, confidence and brand loyalty. A dispute resolution framework that includes a customised ODR process can play a role in the network achieving its steep five-year target of adding $48 billion in gross merchandise value to India's e-commerce market, a network of 90 crore buyers and 12 crore sellers with the least hiccups.

Bhaven Shah is the co-founder of Presolv360, an online dispute resolution company. Sidharth Kapoor is an advocate at the Delhi High Court and works with Presolv360

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Floods and Kerala

Kerala has been bearing the brunt of climate change in the form of frequent and heavy rains and floods (Page I, August 5). It is very likely that heavy rains and flooding may well become a regular or annual feature in the future, requiring the focused attention of the State government. As such, it would be better to create a separate Ministry of Disaster Management so that proper planning and implementation of mitigation measures, in coordination with other relevant ministries in the government, can be taken up in time.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

CJI tenure

I find the appointment of the Chief Justice of India to be a bit of a strange process (Inside pages, "CJI proposes Justice U.U. Lalit as successor", August 5). Any head of an institution must serve in that role for a considerable period of time to drive certain initiatives on a consistent basis. The legal system in our country requires a huge overhaul especially in terms of the legal delivery system. That Justice Lalit, if appointed, will have a tenure of hardly three months is bewildering. What can he do in such a short period of time? The blind process of going by seniority may need to be reviewed.

SOUNDARRAJAM,
Chennai

This is epic

The report (Inside pages, August 5), "Topping *Ramayana* quiz, the Wafy way", on how two Muslim students in Kerala won an online *Ramayana* quiz competition, is awe-inspiring. In a world that has much communal hatred and fanaticism practised overtly and covertly, may their tribe increase. It is not the greatness of any religion, but the respect and concern for other cultures that counts. The details about the academic programme of the college they study in are simply exemplary.

P. MANGALACHANDRAN,
West Ponniam, Kannur, Kerala

■ One is overwhelmed by the candid comments of the two Muslim students. One is reminded of the former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice M.M. Ismail, who was an authority on the *Kamba Ramayanam*. His lectures on the various cantos threw abundant light on the characterisation in the epic. Let Hindu-Muslim unity grow and flourish in our country.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

Ban on practice

It was a surprise to read the report, "'Ban practice of beating *thandora*'" (Tamil Nadu, August 4). The *Thandora* method is very useful to make quick announcements in order to alert people living in village lanes about emergencies as it may be difficult to extend the public address system in those areas. Moreover, it is a form of a gainful occupation, which I feel should not be banned *per se*. If it is believed that the practice is linked to the caste system, there is no harm in officials trying to see if monitored changes can make it open to all.

N. RAMA RAO,
Chennai

A frame-up most foul

Nearly three years after Komal Lodha, a young farm labourer, was sentenced to death by a trial court for the rape and murder of a tribal child in his village, the Rajasthan High Court has found that he was wrongfully prosecuted in the case. **Abhinay Lakshman** reports on the police investigation that led to the conviction

Komal Lodha's brother Biramchand and mother (in the background) at their home in Mogyabeh village, Rajasthan. (Below) The fields where the seven-year-old girl's body was found in 2018. • ABHINAY LAKSHMAN

On the evening of July 27, 2018, Naina (7) told her parents that she was going to a store close to their home in Rajasthan's Mogyabeh village in Jhalawar district. She disappeared into the dusk. It was around the same time that Komal Lodha (then 17) was being served dinner at his home, his mother says. The next day, Naina was found 500 metres from her home – raped and murdered – and Lodha was arrested for her killing. He was convicted and sentenced to death by a trial court within a year of the incident.

Four years later, the State Police have been forced to reopen the investigation into Naina's death and start from scratch after the Rajasthan High Court found that the DNA evidence in the case absolved Lodha and that he had been wrongfully prosecuted by the police.

As 21-year-old Lodha waits in a Kota jail for his conviction to be overturned, the residents of Mogyabeh, numbering less than 1,000, are clueless, just like the police, about who could have killed the tribal girl. But unlike the police, they refuse to believe that someone from their village could have murdered her. The villagers say they believed Lodha was involved only because the police had insisted that they had "test results" that pointed to his involvement. Today, despite the High Court's finding, some still hold Lodha responsible, while others are confused.

Komal Lodha's arrest

The men in the village recall how the police had arrived at their conclusion within hours of finding Naina's body. "They stormed the village after the girl was found. The police called for every man aged 18 to 50, gathered us all at the government school here and started stripping us down. They checked our private parts for signs of injuries. Lodha was also there," recalls 35-year-old Vimal as he lights a bidi in the village square.

Lodha's older brother, Biramchand Lodha, was also picked up. "They kept saying they needed to identify anyone who was acting 'nervous'. We were naked and the police kept touching our private parts. As far as I could see, everyone there was nervous," Biramchand Lodha says.

Vimal, Biramchand Lodha and at least two other men in the village who describe having been subjected to the same unnerving process say that the police eventually pulled out three or four men from the line of suspects. They allegedly noticed a mark on one of them, Komal Lodha. As per court records, Lodha was arrested on July 28.

However, in the charge sheet, the police's narrative of how they zeroed in on Lodha as the prime suspect is fundamentally different from the events that villagers in Mogyabeh recall. The police claimed that several villagers, including Naina's parents and her cousins, had "seen her go away with Lodha". The police insisted that they went looking for Lodha based on the statements of these witnesses and that a dog squad also led them to his home.

"We never told the police that we suspected anyone or that we had seen Lodha with our daughter. We did not even find the body; the police found it. The police came and told us the day after she was found that they had arrested Lodha and that he had killed our child. So, we believed them and held him responsible," says Naina's mother, after finding out in July this year about the Rajasthan High Court's ruling. The FIR in the case, lodged on the complaint of Naina's father, a day after she went missing, also does not mention the child being taken away by someone.

Eventually, when they deposed before the trial court, both parents insisted that they saw Lodha taking away their daughter. Moreover, the police had recorded statements of other villagers, including Naina's minor cousin, who purportedly said they last saw Lodha with Naina. In court, however, all the witnesses admitted that they had not seen Lodha get violent with Naina or rape her or kill her.

While both Biramchand and his mother say they were not very close to Komal Lodha, they insisted that on the day Naina went missing, he was at home eating dinner, after which he went into his room.

The police filed their charge sheet against Lodha on August 7, within 10 days of his arrest and nearly two months before the DNA result from collected samples came back on September 9. The crime had occurred near the Assembly constituency of the then Chief Minister, Vasundhara Raje, who was getting ready to face an Assembly election months later.

The trial court in Jhalawar began hearing the case in 2018. In October that year, it concluded that Lodha was an adult even though his mark sheet and his school principal testified to his date of birth – both determining him as a juvenile as per the Juvenile Justice Act. Instead, the court relied on the statement of a doctor, who estimated that Lodha was between the ages of 19 and 21, based on his X-ray reports. This doctor was not a radiologist.

The charge sheet against Lodha was filed under Sections 363 (punishment for kidnapping), 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural offences), 302 (murder), and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code; Section 5(m) and Section 6 of the The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO); and Sections 3(1)(w)(i) and 2(5) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, also known as the SC/ST Act, given that Naina was from a Scheduled Tribe. Save for the charges under the SC/ST Act, the trial court convicted Lodha of all other charges on September 23, 2019.

In addition to the witness statements, the police had used a purported confession by Lodha, recorded in police custody, to prosecute him in the case. After his arrest, the police team led by the Superintendent of Police, Jhalawar, brought Lodha back to the village from time to time to recover what they called "evidence". This included the pair of slippers Naina was wearing when she went missing, which was recovered within 200 feet of where her body was found. In their charge sheet, the police said that Lodha's confession allegedly led them to the slippers. They argued that the recovery made on the basis of the confession would strengthen the credibility of the confession even though Lodha denied the charges against him in court.

The DNA evidence

After relying on this evidentiary material, which the Rajasthan High Court has now ruled as "circumstantial", the trial court relied on the DNA evidence presented before it by the prosecution to convict Lodha. The prosecution had submitted that the male DNA profile recovered from the victim's vaginal swab and her leggings matched with the profile found on Lodha's underwear. It had also said that the DNA profile from his underwear matched with the profile obtained from his blood sample. Placing this on record, the trial court had ruled that "there is no room for doubt" that Lodha had raped and killed Naina.

But what the prosecution left out and what the trial court failed to mention in its order was that two separate male DNA profiles were recovered from the vaginal swab and the leggings of the victim and two male DNA profiles were also recovered from Lodha's underwear. The findings of the DNA analysis, recorded by the Forensic Science Laboratory in Jaipur, showed that one of the DNA profiles on Lodha's underwear matched with his blood sample. However, the other male DNA profile on his underwear matched the male profile found on the leggings and vaginal swab of the victim and did not match with Lodha's blood sample. This means that the DNA profile of the accused that was found on the victim had somehow appeared on Lodha's purported underwear by the time it was sent for forensic analysis.

Based on these findings of the DNA analysis, the Rajasthan High Court concluded that the police had failed to look at the evidence at hand in their rush to prosecute the case, and evidence seemed to have been planted on Lodha to secure a conviction. What strengthened the High Court's suspicion of evidence being planted was that the police showed recovery of the underwear nearly seven hours after Lodha's arrest.

"They were clearly in a rush because of some kind of pressure. Otherwise, why file a charge sheet without even waiting for the DNA report to confirm their investigation," asked advocate Nitin Jain, who was the first to find that the DNA analysis absolved Lodha, and made his case before the High Court.

Though the police in Jhalawar have reopened the investigation into the case based on the Rajasthan High Court's direction, they are yet to start enquiring how investigators got it wrong the first time around. "Now that we have reopened the case, we will investigate it again and if we find anything that shows police misconduct, we will register an FIR and proceed accordingly," says Richa Tomar, Superintendent of Police, Jhalawar. She adds that there is no breakthrough in the case on finding Naina's killers.

A confused village

The locals in Mogyabeh village, which is located in the dense forests along the border of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, do not know what to believe anymore. While some of them refuse to revisit that chapter of the village's history and continue to believe that Lodha killed Naina, others are no longer sure. Regardless, Naina's rape and murder and Lodha's subsequent conviction for it have changed the lives of the villagers forever.

On the one hand, Naina's parents are livid that their closure came from the police's apparent false claims. They insist on holding Lodha responsible for the death of their daughter till the police correct their mistake. "The police first came to tell us that Lodha was the one who killed Naina. We believed them, went to court, and eventually made our peace with the fact that the person responsible had been caught. Now the court is saying the police made a mistake. What are we to do? If it is their mistake, they should correct it and tell us who killed our daughter. Till then, we have no option but to believe that he (Lodha) killed her," says Naina's father.

On the other hand, Lodha's family has been ostracised by the villagers. Friends of decades have refused to associate with them. Relegated to the outskirts of the village, Lodha's family members keep themselves busy on their farms, where Komal Lodha used to help them. "We used to run a puncture shop in the village earlier. It was a very social place. Our friends used to chat with us there regularly. We had to shut shop and now barely anyone comes to visit us or talk to us. Every time we go into a store or pass by the village square, we get dirty looks. People keep calling us a murderer's family and keep abusing us. After a point we considered leaving the village, but people we knew from nearby villages said we should stay put and that they would help us if needed," Biramchand Lodha says.

The family has also been unable to get Lodha's sister married because of the allegations levelled by the police against him. "Anyone who comes to see her eventually finds out about the case and then refuses to get their son married to our sister," Biramchand Lodha says.

Instead of bringing them relief, the Rajasthan Police's re-investigation into the case has only brought more trouble for this family belonging to the Other Backward Classes. "The police came back to question me a month ago. They kept asking me if the underwear recovered in the case was mine based on its brand, VIP. Then they asked me if I wear the same brand. But this is a popular brand. Half the men in the country probably wear this brand," Biramchand Lodha says. He recalls how he was taken to the police station in 2018 and allegedly beaten up before the police concluded that he was not involved.

"Honestly, I do not believe that the police will get anywhere with the case unless they first talk to Lodha calmly, without intimidating him and check if he knows anything else about the perpetrators. It is possible that he was a witness to the incident and was subsequently framed," Jain says. Now, a revision petition has been filed in the Supreme Court, challenging the top court's order earlier this year upholding Lodha's conviction, he says.

After the trial court convicted him and sentenced him to death in the case, Lodha approached the Rajasthan High Court with an appeal, where the conviction was upheld but the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Pressing for the death penalty, the State of Rajasthan then moved a death reference petition in the Supreme Court. The apex court again upheld the conviction but sent the matter back to the Rajasthan High Court for deciding on the death penalty. It was during this hearing that Jain decided to appear for Lodha pro bono and sought the chance to present arguments with regard to the DNA evidence. Following this, a two-judge bench of the Rajasthan High Court concluded that the DNA evidence absolved Lodha. But since the High Court had been restricted by the Supreme Court to only look at the sentencing, it commuted the death sentence to life in jail and was unable to overturn the conviction. It directed the police to reopen the case. As a result, Lodha remains in jail, "convicted" of rape and murder, waiting for either his appeal to be filed or for his revision petition to be decided by the Supreme Court.

The name of the victim has been changed to protect her identity

FROM PAGE ONE

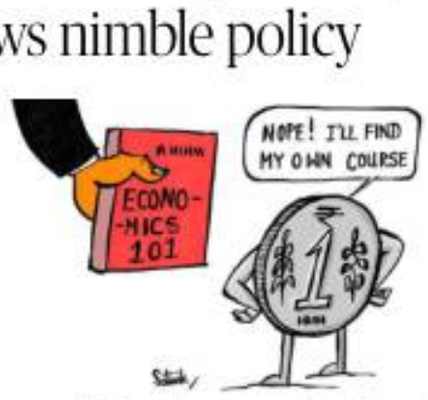
China sanctions Pelosi, suspends key U.S. talks

In a televised address, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen described the firing of missiles into "some of the busiest transportation corridors in the world" as "dangerous" and "irresponsible".

China has defended the exercises as a countermeasure to Ms. Pelosi's visit, the most high-level from the U.S. to Taiwan in 25 years. Chinese analysts have said the exercises were aimed at sending a message to both Taiwan and the U.S. by bringing in a new normal in increased military activity around Taiwan.

The drills marked the first firing of conventional missiles over Taiwan as well as aircraft and warships crossing the median line in the Taiwan Strait. The exercises, analysts said, had laid the groundwork for future blockades and area denial for foreign warships that might intervene in a future conflict.

RBI raises repo rates, vows nimble policy



"In an ocean of high turbulence... Indian economy is an island of microeconomic and financial stability," Mr. Das asserted.

"Economic growth is resilient and all this [financial stability, microeconomic stability , resilience of growth] has become possible despite two Black Swan events [pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine] happening one after the other and despite multiple shocks," Mr. Das said.

Observing that there were signs that Consumer Price inflation (CPI) had peaked and was expected to moderate going into the fourth quarter, Mr. Das said, "but inflation still remains at uncomfortable and unacceptably high levels."

" And therefore, monetary policy has to act as there are also several uncertainties clouding the outlook," he added.

Mr. Das said the excess liquidity in the system was being gradually brought down.

On the external sector, Mr. Das said the Current Account Deficit (CAD) would remain within manageable limits and the RBI had the ability to finance the CAD. "The forex reserves remain strong and RBI will effectively deal with excess volatility of the exchange rate and the umbrella remains strong," he added.

Rahul Gandhi alleges 'death of democracy'

Listen to us: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi taking part in a protest march in New Delhi on Friday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Top leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, general secretaries K.C. Venugopal, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were detained by the police.

There were dramatic moments outside the AICC headquarters as Ms. Vadra climbed over a barricade and sat on a protest.

In Parliament, after getting both the Houses adjourned, Congress members, including party chief Sonia Gandhi, assembled at Gate number 1 before attempting to march towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Congress MPs were, however, stopped by the Delhi Police close to Vijay Chowk lawns and were not allowed to proceed towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Ms. Gandhi, who along with other women MPs was holding a banner, didn't take part in the march.

The other MPs were detained by the police at Vijay Chowk. Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, other Lok Sabha members Manickam Tagore, Gaurav Gogoi were among the 64 MPs who were taken away in a police bus to the Kingsway Camp police lines.

"We are here to raise the issue of price rise," Mr. Gandhi said just before his arrest and added, "democracy is being murdered".

Accusing that his colleagues were being manhandled, Mr. Gandhi posted pictures of Dean Kuriakose being forcibly taken away and Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Chowdhury resisting police action by lying on the road. Videos released by the party showed the Congress leader trying to rescue his colleague, Deepender Hooda, who was being dragged by police personnel.

Similar face-offs were witnessed in the party headquarters that had been barricaded to prevent a march to the Prime Minister's official residence by Congress Working Committee (CWC) members. Ms. Vadra, a CWC member, defied police restrictions by jumping over barricades and sitting on a dharna before being forcibly dragged by women officers into a police vehicle.

The stage for confrontation was set by an aggressive morning press conference by Mr. Gandhi in which he blasted the Modi government. "There is no democracy in India and there is a dictatorship of four people", he alleged. "What we are witnessing is the death of democracy. What India has built brick by brick, starting almost a century ago, is basically being destroyed in front of your eyes," Mr. Gandhi added.

On Friday night, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "Congress MPs have just been released after being detained for almost 6 hours for protesting peacefully and democratically..."

Privilege of MPs does not extend to criminal cases, says Venkaiah

'Wrong notion about immunity from action by agencies when House session is on'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said on Friday that members have a wrong notion that they have a privilege from action by the investigating agencies while the session is on.

The Congress has been protesting against the alleged misuse of Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Income Tax Department by the government to "frame" political rivals.

The Congress members had on Thursday forced adjournments in the Upper House when Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said he had received summons from the ED to appear before the agency even while the House was in session. Priyanka Chaturvedi of the Shiv Sena too raised the issue of the arrest of Sanjay Raut by the ED saying that the Chairman should have been apprised of the situation.

> **No member should avoid appearing before any investigating agency when she or he is called upon to do so by citing reason of House duty. As lawmakers, it is our bounden duty to respect the law and legal procedures**
> M. VENKAIAH NAIDU, Rajya Sabha Chairman

On Friday too, protests by the Congress members on the issue led to an adjournment by nearly 30 minutes.

As the House assembled, Mr. Naidu said, "Going by what has happened in the past few days, I want to clarify one thing that there is a wrong notion among the members that they have a privilege from action by agencies while the session is on."

He said he had examined all the precedents and under Article 105 of the Constitution, MPs enjoyed certain privileges so that they can perform their parliamentary duties without any hindrance. "One of the privileges is that a Member of Parliament cannot be arrested in a civil case, 40 days before the commencement of the session or committee meeting and 40 days thereafter. This privilege is already incorporated under section 135A of the Civil Procedure Code.

However, in criminal matters, MPs are not on a different footing than a common citizen. "It means that an MP does not enjoy any immunity from being arrested in a criminal case during the session or otherwise," Mr. Naidu said.

He recounted a ruling given in 1966 by Dr. Zakir Hussain that said, "Members of Parliament do enjoy certain privileges so that they can perform their duties. One such privilege is freedom from arrest when Parliament is in session. This privilege of freedom from arrest is limited only to civil cases and has not been allowed to interfere in the administration of criminal proceedings."

Mr. Naidu asked the members to recall an observation made earlier by him in which he said, "No member should avoid appearing before any investigating agency when she or he is called upon to do so by citing reason of House duty. As lawmakers, it is our bounden duty to respect the law and legal procedures. It applies to all, in all cases, because you can only inform that the House is in session, seeking further date, but you cannot avoid the enforcement agencies or their summons or notices."

Congress protest is a bid for appeasement: Shah

He draws attention to date of event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah responded sharply to the Congress' protest on Friday, stating that the party had chosen August 5 as the date as a subtle message "of its appeasement politics" as it was on the same day in 2020 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for the construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya.

"Congress chose this day for protest and wore black clothes because they want to give a subtle message to further promote their appeasement politics because on this day itself Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation of Ram Janmabhoomi. I want to say that a policy of appeasement is not good for the country and anyone else, and it is because it follows such policies that Congress is in a state that it's in," he said. He also said that the Congress as a responsible political party should comply with the law, as the *National Herald* case was being investigated.

Earlier in the day, former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing the press shortly after Mr. Gandhi's own presser before the Congress' protest march from Parliament, said that the Opposition leader had made "shameful and irresponsible" comments. "Stop demeaning the institutions of India to safeguard your corruption and misdeeds. If people don't listen to you why are you blaming us," said Mr. Prasad.

Mr. Prasad said Mr. Gandhi "must answer as to how Young Indian, a firm in which the two Gandhis have 76% stake, allegedly acquired *National Herald*'s assets worth over ₹5,000 crore with the investment of only ₹5 lakh".

Meanwhile, responding to Mr. Shah's allegations, Congress' communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted that the Home Minister's comments sought to divert attention and polarise. "It's only a sick mind which can produce such bogus arguments. Clearly the protests have hit home!" he said.

Bill to punish 'religious animosity' mooted in LS

It calls for body to monitor publishers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh on Friday introduced a private member's Bill in the Lok Sabha to set up an agency which will be devoted to the prohibition of publication and dissemination of objectionable material on religion, with punitive action for such publication being no less than two years and up to five years imprisonment, and to derecognise any publisher or advertising agency involved in it.

"There has been a sudden rise in the case of publication and dissemination of objectionale material on religion in the country. Certain mischievous elements try to hurt the religious sentiments of citizens of the country with support from certain publishers and advertising agencies," the Bill states.

The bill is interesting in that it comes at a time when several cases have been filed in different parts of the country over hurting the religious sentiments of one group or the other.

FIR lodged against *The Week* editor over 'offensive' image

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the editor and management of *The Week* magazine on a complaint about hurting religious sentiments by publishing allegedly derogatory images of Hindu deities.

The magazine issued an apology for what it termed an "inappropriate illustration" accompanying a column by Bibek Debroy, who heads the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Mr. Debroy ended his association with the magazine on Thursday.

The FIR was registered in Kanpur under Section 295A (deliberate and malicious intention of outraging religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code following a complaint by former national convener of the Bajrang Dal Prakash Sharma.

Author's protest

The complainant alleged that the magazine published objectionable photos of Lord Shiva and Maa Kali to go with Mr. Debroy's piece titled 'A tongue of fire' in its July 24 issue.

The author registered his protest in a letter to the magazine on Thursday. "There is a very tenuous link between the content of the article and the picture. I can think of many better depictions of Kali. This picture was deliberately chosen to titillate and provoke," he wrote.

Issuing the apology, V.S. Jayaschandran, Editor-in-Charge of *The Week*, regretted the "unfortunate error of judgment" in reproducing a 19th century Kangra painting from Himachal Pradesh.

'India on track to meet clean energy targets'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Power Minister R. K. Singh on Friday told the Lok Sabha that India was outstripping developed countries in terms of achieving pledges with regard to clean energy. He said this while moving the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha, a Bill that seeks to make it mandatory for buildings with a minimum connected load of 100 KW to meet their energy requirements from renewable sources.

Two new Bills introduced in the Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two Bills including one to change the structure of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh introduced the Competition (Amendment) Bill seeking substantive provisions to allow the CCI to address the needs of new-age markets. The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, was introduced by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju to change its name to India International Arbitration Centre.

The Competition Bill also has provisions for having 'value of transaction' as a criteria for notifying combinations to the CCI.

Mandatory voting is not practical, says Centre

Three-year debate on Bill put to rest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said in the Lok Sabha that compulsory voting by citizens was an "impratical idea" and may also be open to legal challenges, as voting was a right and not a compulsory duty.

Minister of State for Law and Justice S.P. Singh Baghel said this while responding to a three-year-long debate on a private member's Bill, the Compulsory Voting Bill, 2019, moved by BJP MP Janardan Sigriwal. Mr. Baghel said that the Bill's prescriptions on how to make voting compulsory – suggestions such as the Election Commission making an authentic list of those who skipped voting, to impose a fine of ₹500 on those who did not vote – were not only impractical but would also lead to other problems. "To ask, say a daily labourer to cough up a fine of ₹500 for not voting would be terrible, as would having an authentic list of those who skipped. Many candidates who have muscle power, and would possibly have been promised votes by a particular person may find this a convenient list to settle scores after the polls," the Minister said.

He added that compulsory voting was in a sense against democratic norms. "Democracy is about government for the people, by the people and of the people, you cannot punish the people for not voting," he said.

Mr. Sigriwal later withdrew the Bill, after the intervention by Mr. Baghel.

'Swaraj' is not limited to just self-rule, says Home Minister

'It encompasses country's languages, dharma, culture, arts'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the objective of "Swaraj" would be achieved in true sense only if the country's languages, dharma, culture and arts are preserved and its history passed on to the future generations.

At the launch of a 75-episode serial *Swaraj – Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Kī Samagra Gatha* produced by Doordarshan, Mr. Shah said from the Indian perspective, the meaning of "Swaraj" is not just limited to self-rule. It also encompasses the elements of the country's own unique method of governance, languages, dharma, culture and arts.

Amit Shah at the launch of a serial by Doordarshan in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

The serial will be aired every Sunday from 9-10 p.m. on Doordarshan National from August 14. It is being dubbed in nine regional languages along with English. The serial in regional languages will be broadcast on Doordarshan's regional channels from August 20.

The Home Minister said the foreign rulers destroyed the country's excellent systems. They could have ruled only by instilling an inferiority complex among the Indians.

Mr. Shah said India was all set to attain greater heights in the 75th year of its Independence. He applauded the role of All India Radio and Doordarshan in preserving the country's culture and creating awareness among the people.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said Doordarshan and All India Radio had done a commendable job in reviving the valiant stories of over 550 freedom fighters in order to acquaint the youth with the unsung heroes.

Mamata meets PM Modi, seeks release of funds due to Bengal

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and sought his intervention on release of funds due to the State.

The meeting between the two leaders went on for almost 40 minutes in which the Chief Minister shared a letter addressed to the Prime Minister on funds due from the Government of India, to West Bengal till July 31, 2022.

"With such large amount of ₹1,00,968.44 crore remaining outstanding on account of core sectors, you would no doubt appreciate that it is becoming extremely difficult for the State government to run the affairs and take care of the people of the State," the letter by the Chief Minister said.

Truce period: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Mamata Banerjee during a meeting in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

The Chief Minister is on a four-day visit to New Delhi and is likely to attend a meeting of Niti Aayog on August 7.

The visit comes at a time when her party and government are under pressure due to the School Service Commission scam.

Dhankhar has the edge in today's V-P election

Margaret Alva receives TRS's backing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Members of both Houses of Parliament will elect the next Vice-President on Saturday. All preparations for the voting are over in Parliament House. The ruling NDA's candidate, Jagdeep Dhankhar, and the Opposition's candidate, Margaret Alva, have reached out to all Members of Parliament, seeking their votes.

Meanwhile, the TRS also announced its support to Ms. Alva. The JMM, the AAP and the AIMIM have also supported Ms. Alva.

Mr. Dhankhar is a clear frontrunner as the NDA enjoys majority in the Lok Sabha and has a clear edge over the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. The former West Bengal Governor Mr. Dhankhar has also managed to have fissures in the Opposition camp as the Trinamool Congress decided to abstain from the polling.

Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha is the returning officer for the election. The polling will take place till 5 p.m. and the results will also be announced on Saturday.

The 80-year-old Ms. Alva said if the Parliament is to function effectively, MPs, independent of their parties, must find ways to rebuild trust and restore communication among each other.

'Return lands of privatised PSUs to States'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Protection of the State Resources Bill, a private member Bill moved by CPI (M) MP V Sivadasan in Rajya Sabha, demands that the right of land, handed over to the Centre by the States for establishing Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), should remain with the States if the Centre privatises CPSUs. The Bill asks for the concurrence of the State for privatisation of CPSUs.

Dr. Sivadasan said that ever since the neoliberal reforms were undertaken in the country, the assets of the CPSUs were sold to private players.

INTERVIEW | MEHBOOBA MUFTI

'Self-rule the most relevant solution'

Opening up Kashmir will give Kashmiris a sense of victory, says PDP chief

PEERZADA ASHIQ

As Jammu and Kashmir completes three years without the constitutional special status, former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party chief **Mehbooba Mufti** *sees the Kashmir problem slipping into more complicated realities, with a solution far from sight. Excerpts:*

August 5 will be remembered as the darkest period of Jammu and Kashmir as well as India

Looking back at August 5, 2019, what does the day signify for a party that demanded greater autonomy and proposed a 'self-rule' formula as a final solution?

■ Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed more powers than any other State. Our Assembly was powerful. We had a Constitution. By all means, we were sharing our sovereignty. At the stroke of a pen, not only our Constitution and the flag were scrapped unconstitutionally, but they also subverted the Indian Constitution. August 5 will be remembered as the darkest period of Jammu and Kashmir as well as India. Our 'self-rule' proposal still is the most relevant and implementable solution to the Kashmir issue, without undermining the sovereignty of either Pakistan or India.

There was an attempt by PM Narendra Modi to reach out to J&K's regional parties in 2021. Why did the process hit a dead-end?

■ We don't know what was the intention behind the meeting. Was it to pacify the U.S. as Secretary of State Antony Blinken was visiting India or an attempt to ward off the international community's pressure. If it was about something else, then confidence building measures such as release of prisoners who were not facing serious charges could have become a starting point to take the process forward. I do not regret meeting the Prime Minister because they would have otherwise blamed me for sabotage. At least I tried.

You recently proposed that Prime Minister Modi should focus more on SAARC and put Kashmir at its centre to emerge as a global leader.

■ Kashmir has turned into a battlefield. Being a member of G-8, G-20 and Quad holds no relevance to people of this continent. Instead, SAARC countries need to cooperate with each other. But it's being held hostage by the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan. If we make pre-1947 Jammu and Kashmir a model for SAARC, open bank branches and a SAARC horticulture university, it will not be an obstacle but a facilitator of positive relations between India and Pakistan. I am for more porous borders and increased interaction between parts of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of traditional Silk Route links. Pakistan is using the strategic location of that Kashmir to their advantage and also advantage of that Kashmir. This part of Kashmir also holds the key to Central Asia.

This will give Kashmiris a sense of freedom and achievement without changing the borders. A sense of defeat is hurting Kashmiris and further complicating the problem. Opening up Kashmir will give Kashmiris a sense of victory and Pakistan and India don't have to lose anything.

(Read full interview at bit.ly/Mehbooba370)

Valley sees partial shutdown

Protests mark anniversary of 'black decision'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Kashmir witnessed a street protest by the leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a partial spontaneous shutdown in Srinagar, as the revocation of J&K's special status completed three years on Friday. On the other hand, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha participated in multiple events to promote different projects.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and her supporters held a protest march from the party's Srinagar office but were stopped from heading towards the commercial hub Lal Chowk. Ms. Mufti said August 5, 2019 was "a black decision of the black day and was unacceptable to people of J&K".

"We've vowed that we will get our flag and constitution back," Ms. Mufti said.

The National Conference organised a party meeting and resolved to pursue the case of restoration of Article 370 in the Supreme Court. The meeting was chaired by NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and attended by vice-president Omar Abdullah. "We will continue our peaceful struggle using all legal and constitutional means to challenge what was done to J&K on 5th Aug 2019. The road ahead may be a long one, full of twists and turns but it's not one NC will abandon," Mr. Abdullah said.

CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami said it was on this day in 2019 that the Central government robbed J&K of what it had achieved after a hard-fought battle.

Meanwhile, a shutdown was observed in parts of Srinagar's old city. However, markets remained open in and around commercial hub Lal Chowk. A police spokesman said, "Paying no heed to *bandh* call, all shops are open and it is absolutely normal in Srinagar district."

Attending a number of functions in Srinagar, L-G Sinha flagged off 'The Great India Run' from Lal Chowk. The marathoners will cover a distance of more than 800 km from Srinagar to New Delhi with the message of peace and national integration, an official said. Mr. Sinha added that the retraction of special status has paved the way to good governance.

Stiff resistance: Police stop supporters of PDP as they protest in Srinagar on Friday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Opportunity to move forward: ex-chief of RAW

SRINAGAR

Former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief A.S. Dulat on Friday said the people of Kashmir have come to terms with the fact that special status of the State has gone for good and this provides an opportunity for them to move forward. "These are extraordinarily good times for Kashmir to move forward. I am not suggesting that a Kashmiri should be made to feel defeated. They want to get on with their life. If there is one dream a Kashmiri has today, it is normalcy," Mr. Dulat told *The Hindu*.

Civilian, soldier injured in Kulgam encounter

SRINAGAR

One civilian and a soldier were injured during a gun battle between security forces and hiding militants in south Kashmir's Kulgam on Friday. However, the militants managed to escape from the encounter site. Officials said the contact with the hiding militants could not be re-established after the initial exchange of fire. Officials said the condition of the injured was "stable".

India, China hold dialogue on airspace violations near LAC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and China discussed ways to better establish understanding to manage airspace and avoid airspace violations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This was discussed during the routine confidence building measures (CBM) talks on the ground in eastern Ladakh held earlier this week.

"At the CBM talks on Tuesday, there was an Air Force representative to discuss and establish understanding of airspace issues," an official source said.

These talks come in the backdrop of the recent airspace violations by Chinese fighter jets as they came close to the LAC while taking part in annual exercises, prompting the Indian Air Force to scramble its fighters. The issue of recent violations was raised by the Indian side during the talks.

As per the existing pacts, fighter aircraft and armed helicopters are restricted near the LAC. As per the 'Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the LAC in India-China Border Area' of 1996, "combat aircraft shall not fly within 10 km of the LAC." The LAC is not fully demarcated and there are differences of perception on the alignment due to which such incidents keep happening.

MEA says OIC remark on Kashmir 'reeks of bigotry'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said the statement by the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation on Jammu and Kashmir "reeked of bigotry".

The Ministry of External Affairs said the Saudi Arabia-based OIC continued to issue statements on J&K at the "behest of a serial violator of human rights and notorious promoter of terrorism", indicating Pakistan.

The OIC, in a statement, said India's moves in August 2019 were "illegal and unilateral" and were followed by additional unlawful measures, including "illegal demographic changes".

Pakistan also summoned the Indian Charge d'Affairs, Suresh Kumar, to protest against, what it called, India's "illegitimate actions" that aimed to "unilaterally alter the disputed status" of the former State of J&K.

It called for India to reverse the 2019 decisions.

Fewer law and order troubles after Aug. 5, 2019: J&K police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Departing from the relatively muted response to the August 5 anniversary of the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir over the last two years, several Union Ministers took to Twitter to mark the third year of the event on Friday.

Among those who posted tweets included the official handle of the Jammu and Kashmir Police which ferreted out data on security situation in the Union Territory before and after August 5, 2019.

The special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by the Parliament on August 5, 2019.

The data posted by J&K police showed that from August 5, 2016-August 4, 2019 the number of law-and-order incidents reported in the Valley stood at 3,686 while 438 such incidents were reported from August 5, 2019-August 4, 2022.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai retweeted a post by the BJP's official handle which said "Modi government made the dream of one nation, one mark, one legislation, one head come true."

He also retweeted a post by @themodistory that first shared the '*Jaago Bharat ke Lal*' rendition.

IndianOil
CIN – L 23201 MH 1959 GOI 011388
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
IndianOil R&D Centre invites EOI for **"Identifying reputed Organizations/ Research Institutes/ Industries for scale-up of IndianOil developed Olefin Co-Polymer (OCP) as Viscosity Index Improver (VII)"**. For further details, kindly refer EOI No.: **RNDEOI2203** in following weblink (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprublish/app)

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED
Corporate office: H.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road, Tirupati-517503
Notification for filling up of the post of DIRECTOR (Finance) in APSPDCL
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the post of Director (Finance) on the Board of APSPDCL, a company wholly owned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The details of eligibility criteria, other detailed instructions and prescribed format may be viewed at APSPDCL website **www.apspdcl.in**
Place: Tirupathi, Date: 05.08.2022 — Chairman & Managing Director

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Projects Division, Yelahanka Zone, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560 092
No.: BBMP/YNK/EE (Project)/TEND/11/2022-23 Date: 04.08.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Short Term Tender (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Project Division), Yelahanka Zone, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Tender Document KW4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD
1	Up gradation, Maintenance and New Landscape development of Parks at Yelahanka Lake Park, Lalbahuddur Shasthry park, SFS 407, 4th Main Road Praks, Basavalingappa Park, Deo Marvel Layout Park, Maasthi Venktesha Iyangar Park, A Sector 3rd and 4th Main in Yelahanka Newtown Parks, Aralikatte, Sharadha Nagara Arch Park, Amogha Varshini Park, Judicial Layout Parks, A Sector 11th Main and 5th Cross Parks and Median at Allalasandra Road.	Rs. 441.93 Lakhs	Rs. 6.70 Lakhs

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. **(2)** Last date & time for queries (only through online): **16.08.2022** upto **3:00 p.m. (3)** Date and time of pre bid meeting: **16.08.2022** at **4:00 p.m. (4)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **20.08.2022** at **4:00 p.m. (5)** Opening of Technical bid: **22.08.2022** at **11:00 a.m. (6)** Opening of Financial bid: **24.08.2022** at **4:00 p.m.** if Possible. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Project Division, Yelahanka Zone BBMP
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222333 000216	Procurement of PP Bag Powerbond Size:30x20 Inch	20.08.2022
222313 002724	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride)	19.08.2022
222313 002726	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit-I	20.08.2022
Email:	222333000216 - purchase. lsfm@tnpl.co.in 222313002724, 2726 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.**
DIPR/3665/Tender/2022 — TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"செலுவன கடந்து வருந்தும் அவ நிற்றோம், எருவன புரிந்து எரிந்தும் பயனோம்."

KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Transport Bhavan, Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram – 695023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
KSRTC, one of the largest fleet owners of the country, intends to invite Expression of Interest for the implementation of a comprehensive package of ERP Software for KSRTC. The documents may downloaded from the e-tender portal: **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Pre-bid meeting of registered bidders – **12.00 pm on 11.08.2022** (Online)
For the detailed visit : **www.keralartc.com**, e-mail : **edpc.krtc@kerala.gov.in**
05.08.2022 — Sd/- Chairman & Managing Director

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Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Nature of Work	Due date
2022016	Enlistment of Buyers for Conduting On-Line Auctions in the Internet for Sale of Waste and Scrap Materials for the year 2022-23 from TNPL Unit-1 & Unit-2	20.09.2022
222313 002298	Providing manpower assistance under outsourced category at TNPL Corporate Office and Branch Offices	22.08.2022
222313 002703	Collection, Segregation and Dumping of waste generated in TNPL Housing Colony	22.08.2022
212213 002634	Transportation of Bagasse/Fuel (Coal/Raw Lignite) from/to M/s.Sakthi Sugars Limited, Appakudal.	20.08.2022
212213 002635	Transportation of Bagasse/Fuel (Coal/Raw Lignite)from/to M/s. Salem Co-Operative Sugars Mills Ltd, Mohanur.	22.08.2022
Email:	202016 - stores.dis@tnpl.co.in 222313002298, 2703 - tech_services@tnpl.co.in 212213002634, 2635 - purchase.trans@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.**
DIPR/3666/Tender/2022 — TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"செலுவன கடந்து வருந்தும் அவ நிற்றோம், எருவன புரிந்து எரிந்தும் பயனோம்."

idco Your owner to grow (ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation) | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1973/01/2022 19876 Dated :- 03.08.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Name of the Work : Construction of SFRC Boundary Wall over Ac.871.427 under Baranga Tahasil, Dist. Cuttack.
Estimated Cost : Rs.437.36 lakhs (apprx).
Period of Completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-41 / 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 16.08.2022	17.00 Hours of 06.09.2022

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in** and IDCO Website www.idco.in.
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1384 — OIPR-14003/11/0095/2223

PUDUCHERRY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
PUDUCHERRY
e-mail:registrar@ptuniv.edu.in URL:https://www.ptuniv.edu.in Phone (EPABX) (0413) 2655281- 2655288 Fax: 2655101
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from eligible candidates from academia and industry to pursue Ph.D (**Full time & Part time**) research in **Engineering** (ECE,EEE, EIE,ME,CE, Chemical Engg., CSE and IT), **Science** (Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and Humanities & Social Sciences (English) disciplines for the academic year 2022-23.
Last date for applying is **10.08.2022**. Refer **www.ptuniv.edu.in** for further information.
REGISTRAR
No.213/OIPHD/Press/2022-23

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TWAD BOARD, MADURAI.
THIRD EXTENSION NOTICE No.3 /Dt.01.08.2022 (E- Submission)
Ref : 1. This Office IFB: 04 & 05 /F.Oddanchatram CWSS/JJM / SDO I/ CW / Dt.11.05.2022
2. This Office Tender Extension Notice No.1 /Dt.20.06.2022 (Ist Extension)
3. This Office Tender Extension Notice No.2 /Dt.05.07.2022 (2nd Extension)
The receipt & opening of tenders called for in the reference 1st cited is extended as under :
Name of Work : Providing CWSS to Oddanchatram Municipality, Keeranur and Neikkarapatti Town Panchayats and 506 rural Habitations in Dindigul District with Bulk provision to 22 rural habitations in Tiruppur District with river Azhiyar as source including paid maintenance for a period of 5 years. (Period of completion– 18 months)
1. Package I
2. Package II

Period of sale of bid documents	up to 17.45 hours on 24.08.2022
Last date for receipt of tenders	upto 15.00 hours on 25.08.2022
Opening of tenders	at 15.30 hours on 26.08.2022

The other terms and conditions remain unaltered.
DIPR/ 3675 /TENDER/2022 — தோல் இருக்குமனம் - குடிநீர் சிக்கனம்
"செலுவன கடந்து வருந்தும் அவ நிற்றோம், எருவன புரிந்து எரிந்தும் பயனோம்."
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
692, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035 (ELCOT)
e-TENDER NOTICE
ELCOT invites bids for Providing CAMC services for TNHSP Phase III Servers and SHDRC Servers placed at TNSDC - Perungudi, DMS 4th Floor and NDC Pune.

Tender No.	ELCOT/NW/OT/33597/CAMC/2022-23
Pre bid meeting & E Portal Training	12.08.2022 @ 11.00 AM
Bid Submission Start date	25.08.2022 @ 11.00 AM
Due Date & Time for submission of Tenders	07.09.2022 @ 03.00 PM
Tender Opening Date & Time	07.09.2022 @ 04.00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Only)
Tender Fee	Rs. 11,800 (Including GST)

For further details visit our websites : https://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/ 3674 /TENDER/2022
GENERAL MANAGER (Networks)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU / FOREST DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Society,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR),
Tambaram Velachery Main Road, Medavakkam Post, Vijaya Nagaram, Chennai - 600100.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
The JICA assisted Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) with an outlay of Rs.920.52 Crores and for a 8 year period aims to mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve ecosystem by undertaking biodiversity conservation, human wildlife conflict mitigation measures, promoting supply chain development, livelihood improvement activities and management capacity development, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Tamil Nadu. It is intended to appoint Project Management Consultants for this project.
Agencies / Firms / Consortiums interested in the Consultancy may please see the website **http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in or www.forests.tn.gov.in** for further details. The last date for submission of Expression of Interest is **17.00 hours on 07.09.2022** by hand delivery / Registered Post / Courier.
DIPR/3634/DISPLAY/2022
Chief Project Director, (TBGPCCR)

ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY / FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER REVENUE
UT Secretariat - Ladakh
Phone No: 01982-257561, Fax No 257435 Email:- comsecyutladakh@gmail.com
Hiring the services of a 'Consultant' to monitor / provide technical expertise / guidance for modernization of land records under DILRMP in the UT of Ladakh
Project:- Implementation of DILRMP for modernization of land records in the Union territory of Ladakh as per the guidelines of DILRMP issued by Department of Land Records, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
Tender Schedule is as follows:-

S.No	Particulars	Details
1	Proposal Due Date for Submission	02.08.2022
2	Start Date of Submission	03.08.2022 at 0900 Hrs
3	End Date of Submission	16.08.2022 at 1600 Hrs
4	Contact Details	Chief Executive Officer, Ladakh Land Records Management Agency (LLaRMA) / Financial Commissioner Revenue's Office, Civil Secretariat, UT Ladakh **Pin Code-194101 Phone : 01982-257561 E-mail:- comsecyutladakh@gmail.com**

The document can be downloaded from the website http://tenders.ladakh.gov.in and the websites of the districts of Leh and Kargil of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
Sd/-
OSD to PrincipalSecretary
UT Ladakh

IN BRIEF

Uddhav was ready to ally with BJP, says Kesarkar

PUNE

Maharashtra MLA Deepak Kesarkar — the spokesperson of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction — on Friday said that Uddhav Thackeray was reportedly ready to ally with the BJP if the rebel MLAs were ready to dump Mr. Shinde. But neither Mr. Shinde's followers nor the BJP were ready to accept that proposal, Mr. Kesarkar told reporters.

SC grants Zee News editor interim relief

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted Zee News editor Rajnish Ahuja interim protection from arrest in FIRs registered in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh for airing a doctored video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The court also granted protection from other FIRs which may be filed against him in future. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud issued notices to the States and the Centre.

ED freezes assets worth ₹64.67 crore of WazirX

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches against one of the directors of Zanmai Lab Private Limited, which owns crypto-currency exchange WazirX, and issued an order to freeze ₹64.67 crore kept in bank accounts. The action has been taken as part of the probe against several non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and their fintech partners for alleged predatory lending practices.

Partha Chatterjee in judicial custody

KOLKATA

A court in Kolkata on Friday remanded former Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee and his aide, Aprita Mukherjee, in judicial custody till August 18 in connection with the School Service Commission recruitment scam. The Enforcement Directorate had arrested them on July 23, and they have been in the custody of the agency since then.

SC moots verdict for 'bodily autonomy' under MTP Act

It said rules permit pregnancy termination of up to 24 weeks in seven categories

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it may loosen the restrictive grip of a 51-year-old abortion law which bars unmarried women from terminating pregnancies which are up to 24 weeks old, saying the prohibition was "manifestly arbitrary and violative of women's right to bodily autonomy and dignity".

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and J.B. Pardiwala considered pronouncing a judgment which would put these unmarried women on par with anguished women with less than 20-week-old pregnancies who run the danger of suffering a mental breakdown because they had conceived due to the failure of "family planning devices or methods".

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 and its Rules of 2003 prohibit unmarried women who are between 20 weeks to 24 weeks pregnant to abort with the help of registered medical practitioners.

"An unmarried woman suffers an unwanted pregnancy, why should she be excluded from termination up to 24 weeks if a married woman is allowed it... The danger to life is as much in the case of an unmarried woman as in the case of a married woman," Justice Chandrachud, asked the Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

The court noted that the rules permit termination of pregnancies of up to 24 weeks in seven specific categories, including survivors of rape or sexual assault, minors, in case of physical disabilities and fetal malformation.

Ms. Bhati said the intention of the law is "not to allow abortion freely to all, not to liberalise".

But Justice Chandrachud said an unmarried woman whose pregnancy is over 20 weeks may have also conceived in a similarly vulnerable situation. "Such an unmarried woman may have been exploited... The source of her pregnancy may also be the same vulnerability that applies to other women... You must have a forward-looking interpretation of the law," Justice Chandrachud responded to Ms. Bhati.

"Ultimately what does the legislature intend... The legislature has not just used the word 'husband'. It has also used the word 'partner'. So the legislature is not just concerned about women who undergo pregnancy within marriage, but outside marriage too. Medical risk is the same for both married and unmarried women," Justice Chandrachud observed.

SC seeks govt. response on seizure of digital devices

Academicians have a right to protect their work, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday highlighted the concern expressed by the academia about the seizure of mobile phones and computers of the academia as "electronic evidence" by investigating agencies during raids, saying they have a right to protect their work and research embedded in these personal digital devices.

"They [academics] have a right to protect [their work]... today people live on this [personal devices]," a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh observed orally.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in its affidavit said that while laptops, computers and mobiles are commonly used in contemporary society, criminals also "use these devices in the facilitation of their unlawful activities".

"An accused cannot claim the right to privacy when computers, tablets, laptops, phones, etc, especially when they are used for committing crime or has vital information related to a crime... Digital devices have to be examined thoroughly by forensic experts," the Ministry said.

The court said it was not satisfied by the affidavit filed by the Centre and sought a detailed response.

The law under the Code of Criminal Procedure and Information Technology Act empowers investigating agencies to seize digital and electronic devices.

Professors Ram Ramaswamy, Sujata Patel, M. Madhava Prasad, Mukul Kesavan and Deepak Malghan, who have filed a petition and represented by advocates Nitya Ramakrishnan and S. Prasanna, said academicians lose their life's work when police carry off their computers and drives after a raid. At the hands of the police, their work runs the risk of damage and even distortion.

The court said the Centre needs to study the issue seriously, scan through what is being done in foreign jurisdictions and ensure that a proper stand is taken at the appropriate level. "They [petitioners] are talking specifically about the academia... Please look into it," Justice Kaul addressed Additional Solicitor General S. V. Raju, for the Centre.

Calling for a detailed affidavit, the Bench scheduled the next hearing on September 26.

SC asks Centre to follow up on its lynching ruling

Plea seeks to stop attacks on Christians

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Hearing a plea to intervene against attacks on Christian establishments across the country, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to find out whether States are following its 2018 judgment which puts the onus on the police to prevent communal violence and lynchings.

The query from a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud came in response to a petition filed by Archbishop of Bangalore Diocese Dr. Peter Machado, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who submitted that there were around 505 attacks on the religious community in the past several months alone.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, sought time to file a preliminary affidavit. The court gave the government till Monday.

"We had laid a framework to deal with such cases in the Tehseen Poonawala judgment. We want to know whether our directions in the judgment are being followed by States... That will be our key area of focus," Justice Chandrachud addressed Mr. Mehta.

Mr. Gonsalves said the judgment was in the context of lynchings. "What we want is a similar decision. It can be done by tweaking that judgment," he suggested.

The July 2018 judgment had laid down several preventive, remedial and punitive measures to combat the crime of lynching. Condemning mob lynchings as "horrendous acts of mobocracy", the court had asked the Parliament to make lynching a separate offence.

Gauba's tenure extended by one year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Friday extended the tenure of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba for a period of one year beyond August 30, 2022.

This is Mr. Gauba's second extension to the post. The 1982 batch Jharkhand cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was first appointed as the Cabinet Secretary in 2019 for a term of two years. He received an extension in service in 2021.

This will be Mr. Gauba's fourth year in office. His predecessor P.K. Sinha, a 1977 batch IAS officer had got three extensions and was one of the longest-serving Cabinet Secretaries. Mr. Gauba served as the Union Home Secretary before he was appointed the Cabinet Secretary.

Prepare infra for developing monkeypox vaccine: task force

Experts say the infection does not require mass vaccination

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

With at least eight cases of the mokeypox virus reported in India, a task force constituted by the Centre has laid out plans to fund research in developing the critical infrastructure needed for preparing an indigenous vaccine.

Developing a dedicated vaccine, experts told *The Hindu*, would take well over a year because there were several gaps in figuring out what approach would be ideal.

Though the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak as a public health emergency, experts reckoned that monkeypox was unlikely to immediately require mass vaccination, said a senior government official familiar with the proceedings.

Developing a dedicated vaccine would take well over a year, experts said.

"The monkeypox virus is structurally more stable compared with SARS-CoV-2. However, we don't know if the existing smallpox vaccines will be suitable against monkeypox virus and so the first step we have decided to take is preparing the infrastructure required for vaccine development," the official said At least one major vaccine development company in India is in talks with a foreign company to manufacture the smallpox vaccine in India, the official said.

Danish biotech company, Bavarian Nordic, has developed a smallpox vaccine, called JYNNEOS, that has been tested for safety in people and effectiveness against monkeypox in the laboratory, that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Nearly three lakh doses of the vaccine have been manufactured, and the company said it had firmed a deal with a "manufacturer in an undisclosed APAC (Asia Pacific) country" for supply of 3,50,000 doses of its non-replicating vaccine that would be delivered in 2023.

Hooch claims 11 lives, many fall ill in Bihar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

At least 11 people died and several others fell critically ill allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in two villages under Maker and Bheldi police stations of Saran district.

Among those dead are Kamal Mahto, 65, Chandan Mahto, 30 and Sakaldeep Mahto, 48. "At least two dozen villagers have also fallen ill and admitted to different hospitals in Chhapra, the district headquarters of Saran and Patna while 14 of them have lost their eye sights", a villager Nandkishore said.

The villagers of Nonia Toli of Phulwaria panchayat under Maker police station and Sanho-Bhatha under Bheldi police station are said to have consumed spurious liquor during *Nag Panchami* celebrations recently and later fell ill.

Centre launches portal to register for rations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has launched a common facility to register names in ration cards on pilot basis for 11 States and Union Territories.

Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey told pressperson here on Friday that the facility will enable these States to identify and verify the eligible beneficiaries for coverage under the National Food Security Act. Named as Ration Mitr, this software developed by the National Informatics Centre can be used to enrol people of any State.

He said the portal is an enabler for States/U.T.s to complete their inclusion exercise under NFSA. He added that the scheme will be extended to other States by the end of August. The NFSA provides food security coverage for 81.35 crore persons in the country. The present NFSA coverage is about 79.74 crore.

Delay in disbursing national fellowships

Disabled, SC, OBC, Ph.D. scholars are affected

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Thousands of Ph.D. scholars from the disabled category, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes have not received the monthly national fellowships of around ₹31,000, funded by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, since April, scholars and government officials say.

According to officials from the Ministry, the delay in disbursing the fellowships is due to the change in fund flow guidelines by the Finance Ministry in March.

On March 9, the Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure issued an office memorandum on the "revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Schemes", which required the appointment of a Central nodal agency to disburse funds.

Earlier, the fellowships were disbursed through the University Grants Commission.

Government officials said the National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD), the National Fellowship for OBC and the National Fellowship for SC have been held up since April.

Replying to a Right To Information query by an affected scholar, the Department of Empowerment of PwD (DEPwD) said, "The Department of Expenditure had laid down revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Schemes which mandates, inter alia, designation of a Central Nodal Agency for implementation of the scheme before release of any fund under the scheme. The matter is being taken up with the concerned authorities to resolve the issue at the earliest."

The DEPwD grants fellowships to a maximum of 200 PwD scholars every year. The schemes for OBC and SC scholars under the MSJ&E's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has around 2,300 scholars as of now.

Technical glitches mar CUET-UG yet again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Common University Entrance Exam (CUET) for undergraduate admissions continued to be dogged by technical glitches on Friday, forcing the National Testing Agency (NTA) to cancel the exam at several centres yet again.

The exam for students appearing at 20 centres in the first shift, and at 30 centres in the second shift was postponed, the NTA said in a statement. No new dates were announced for those students who were to take the exam at these centres. The NTA said that candidates should visit its website for further updates.

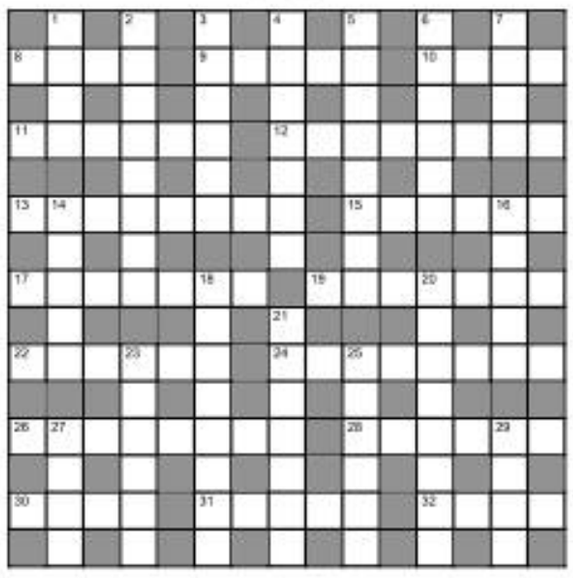
On Thursday, the second shift exam was postponed for all centres. Many candidates also complained on social media that they had not yet received their admit cards with details of their examination centre, for the test scheduled on Sunday.

TH CROSSWORD + 13628

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

8 Garment from Amritsar, India (4)
9 Clot resulting from extraordinary oxidation after loss of axon (5)
10 Southern Washington's season ending for bird (4)
11 Sage's ash sprinkled around daughters at university (6)
12 Ordered general to hug student? It can be irritating! (8)
13 Prove Virginia and companion on romantic outing consumed fifty idlis in the beginning (8)
15 Committed person in team reshuffle (6)
17 Badly seen girl's country (7)
19 Cooking vessels returned through photographer (7)
22 Massachusetts doctor gets arsenic in Chennai (6)
24 Revolutionary new drone is famous (8)
26 Sick after minor offence, starts to assimilate bread (8)
28 Russian fuel's wasted... Sad! (6)
30 Port is remaining (4)
31 Curvy character on board arranged diet including a bit of leek (5)
32 Fixed gearbox's rim (4)

Down

1 Note: Master is monk (4)
2 Fauna file (8)
3 Lie before starting to unsatisfactorily labelling arm bone (6)
4 Motor-cyclist consumes article in Indian city (7)
5 Horse accommodation rejected top horse (8)
6 A marsh redeveloped as retreat for 11 (6)
7 Arrived in Mesozoic America (4)
14 Playground in Marenahalli (5)
16 For starters, tomatoes have extraordinarily rough exteriors at that place (5)
18 Total salt (material to be dissolved in solvent) (8)
20 Prisoner of war ordered, in absence of other ranks, to ground (8)
21 Sweet stuff made by mixing claret before commencement of Easter (7)
23 Spin-doctor to rate (6)
25 Looks after sisters (6)
27 Order of Merit with English sign (4)
29 Egg surgeon to drop son (4)

SUDOKU

		8			3	1		
			4				8	
1	3					9	2	7
			2					3
	5	6	3	4	1	2	7	
2					8			
8	1	7					5	4
	4				6			
		2	1			7		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13627

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	7	6	8	9	4	2	1
8	1	4	3	5	2	9	7	6
9	2	6	4	7	1	3	5	8
7	4	9	1	6	3	2	8	5
1	6	5	8	2	4	7	3	9
2	3	8	5	9	7	6	1	4
4	7	1	9	3	8	5	6	2
6	9	3	2	1	5	8	4	7
5	8	2	7	4	6	1	9	3

FAITH

Hallmarks of a prapanna

A prapanna is one who believes God to be his only refuge and seeks His feet as the only Purushartha or goal. His only wish is to experience God always and also be in His eternal service. He is also aware that all this is possible only by His grace. The entire life is spent in this kind of expectation. Nammazhwar is a model of such a prapanna, pointed out Athangi Sri Srinivasachariar in a discourse.

In the vast and deep repertoire of the Tiruvaimozhi hymns, the highest truths of the Upanishads are emphasised in the simplest terms. Azhwar has captured the finer essences of the Saranagati doctrine and expressed it in many unique ways and from many angles so that every jivatma, whatever may be the level of his spiritual development can find a foothold and is motivated to seek His feet and get relieved from samsara. What is the way of life of a prapanna? How should he remain devoted to Him? How should he make use of this birth to attain the Lord?

Interpreters have shown that the gist of whatever Azhwar wants to convey to humanity by way of seeking God is contained in the very first verse of this Divya Prabandha 'Uyarvara Uyarnalam.' The very first line proclaims the Lord's unequalled greatness, unique and incomparable in all respects. By His grace alone one can experience the limitless nature of His Jnana, Shakti and Ananda. He is the sole Lord of the Nitya Vibhuti, the abode of the Nityasuris as well as the Leela Vibhuti, this wonderful creation. The last line affirms that every jivatma can seek His feet and get relief from samsara. To dispel any doubt, fear or diffidence in the jivatma who may be overawed by His Supremacy, Azhwar commemorates the Lord's Saulabhya in such moving terms that overwhelms and inspires the desire to seek His feet.

U.S. won't let China isolate Taiwan: Pelosi

In Tokyo, on the final leg of her Asian tour, she says the trip was 'not about changing the status quo'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Friday that the U.S. will "not allow" China to isolate Taiwan, after her visit to the self-ruled island infuriated Beijing.

China, which views Taiwan as part of its territory, launched its largest-ever military exercises around the island after Ms. Pelosi defied stern threats to become the highest-profile U.S. official to set foot on Taiwanese soil in years.

Now in Tokyo on the final leg of her Asian tour, Ms. Pelosi did not comment directly on the drills but argued that American politicians should be able to travel to Taiwan freely.

"They may try to keep Taiwan from visiting or participating in other places, but they will not isolate Taiwan by preventing us to travel there," she told reporters.

"We will not allow them to isolate Taiwan," she said, adding that her trip was "not about changing the status quo" in the region.

Common ground: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo. • REUTERS

When asked if the tour had been more about her own legacy than benefiting Taiwan, Ms. Pelosi replied: "This isn't about me – it's about them."

Ms. Pelosi called the democratic island "one of the freest countries in the world", saying she was "proud" of her work showcasing concerns related to mainland China, from alleged trade violations and arms proliferation to human rights.

The 82-year-old politician arrived on Thursday from South Korea, another key U.S. ally, where she visited the border with the nuclear-armed North.

End military drills: Japan

It is her first time in Japan since 2015, and on Friday morning she met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who said Japan had "called for the immediate cancellation of the military drills".

Ms. Pelosi also held talks with Japan's House of Representatives speaker Hiroyuki Hosoda, and was scheduled to meet members of the U.S. forces in Japan.

Tokyo said five Chinese missiles were believed to have fallen in Japan's exclusive economic zone(EEZ), with four of those presumed to have flown over Taiwan's main island.

'Chinese actions escalate tensions'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PHNOM PENH

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that China's military exercises aimed at Taiwan, including missiles fired into Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), represent a "significant escalation". Mr. Blinken said that he has called on Beijing to back down.

The EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from Japan's coastline, beyond the limits of its territorial waters.

Mr. Kishida condemned the missile launches as a "serious problem that impacts our national security and the safety of our citizens".

Parts of Japan's southernmost Okinawa region are close to Taiwan, as are islets at the centre of a long-running dispute between Tokyo and Beijing.

In May, U.S. President Joe Biden also angered Beijing on a visit to Japan, when he said U.S. forces would defend Taiwan militarily if China attempted to take control of the island by force.

But Mr. Biden and his team insisted at the time that their decades-old approach on Taiwan remained in place.

This means support for its government while diplomatically recognising Beijing over Taipei, and opposing a formal independence declaration by Taiwan or a forceful takeover by China.

Strained relations: Rescuers and firefighters putting out a fire following an Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on Friday. • AFP

Israel's strikes on Gaza kill at least 10

It says targeted Islamic Jihad militants

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GAZA CITY

Israel unleashed a wave of airstrikes in Gaza on Friday, killing at least 10 people, including a senior militant, and wounding dozens, according to Palestinian officials. Israel said it was targeting the Islamic Jihad militant group in response to an "imminent threat" following the arrest of another senior militant in the occupied West Bank earlier this week.

Israel's Kan TV showed at least two rockets fired from Gaza being intercepted as air raid sirens went off in central and southern Israel. Hamas rulers have fought four wars and several smaller battles over the last 15 years at a staggering cost to the territory's 2 million Palestinian residents.

'Special situation'

Defence Minister Benny Gantz, meanwhile, approved an order to call up 25,000 reserve soldiers, if needed. And the military announced a "special situation" on the home front, with schools closed and limits placed on other activities in communities within 80 km of the border.

A blast was heard in Gaza City, where smoke poured out of the seventh floor of a tall building on Friday afternoon. Video released by the military showed strikes blowing up three guard towers with suspected militants in them.

"The Israeli government will not allow terrorist organisations in the Gaza Strip to set the agenda in the area adjacent to the Gaza Strip and threaten the citizens of the State of Israel," Prime Minister Yair Lapid said in a statement. "Anyone who tries to harm Israel should know: We will find you."

Hamas also faces a dilemma in deciding whether to join a new battle – barely a year after the last war caused widespread devastation. There has been almost no reconstruction since then, and the isolated coastal territory is mired in poverty, with unemployment hovering around 50%.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said a 5-year-old girl and a 23-year-old woman were among those killed and that another 55 people were wounded. It did not differentiate between civilians and militants. The Israeli military said early estimates were that around 15 fighters were killed. Islamic Jihad said Taiseer al-Jabari, its commander for northern Gaza, was among those killed.

Russia ready for prisoner swap talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia said on Friday it was ready to discuss a prisoner swap with Washington at the presidential level, a day after the conviction of U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner for drug possession.

Despite tensions soaring between Russia and the U.S. since the launch of Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, the former Cold War rivals appeared to be edging closer to a new prisoner exchange.

The White House has urged Russia to accept its offer of a deal for the release of Ms. Griner and former U.S. marine Paul Whelan, who was sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage charges.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said Moscow was willing to discuss the matter.

"We are ready to discuss this subject, but only within the framework of the (communication) channel established by Presidents Putin and Biden," Mr. Lavrov said.

"There is a special channel established by the Presidents and despite certain public declarations, it is still functional," he added.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who spoke to Mr. Lavrov about the exchange last Friday, said Washington will be "pursuing" discussions with Russia.

The WNBA player was on Thursday sentenced to nine years in a Russian penal colony and ordered to pay a fine of one million roubles ($16,590) for possessing and smuggling narcotics.

She was detained at a Moscow airport in February after she was found carrying vape cartridges with cannabis oil in her luggage.

'Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully'

China urges India, Pak. to 'avoid taking unilateral actions to change status quo'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China on Friday called on India and Pakistan to "peacefully" resolve their differences in Kashmir, on the third anniversary of the move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.

"On the Kashmir issue, China's position is consistent and clear," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

Asked by the Pakistani media to comment on the anniversary, the spokesperson referred to China's comments made three years ago on the move, calling for parties to "avoid taking unilateral actions to change the *status quo* or escalate tensions".

Ms. Hua added that China "calls on India and Pakistan to peacefully resolve the dispute through dialogue and consultation".

China had in 2019 strongly hit out at the move, particularly with regard to the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh, although India had, at the time, conveyed to Beijing that the changes were entirely internal with no bearing on the boundary dispute.

Hua Chunying

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also referred to taking back Aksai Chin, speaking in Parliament in 2019.

A 2020 article by a scholar at a prominent Chinese think tank, the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), had at the time linked the move to the LAC tensions that began following the PLA's multiple transgressions in eastern Ladakh, saying India had "incorporated part of the areas under the local jurisdiction of Xinjiang and Tibet into its Ladakh union territory" and "forced China into the Kashmir dispute, stimulated China and Pakistan to take counter-actions on the Kashmir issue, and dramatically increased the difficulty in resolving the border issue between China and India".

14 killed in Thai club fire, probe ordered

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha on Friday ordered an investigation into a massive blaze that tore through a nightclub, killing at least 14 people.

The fire broke out around 1:00 a.m. at the Mountain B nightspot in Sattahip, about 160 km southeast of Bangkok. The rescue service said the blaze was accelerated by flammable acoustic foam on the walls of the club.

Putin hosts Erdogan for talks on trade, Ukraine

They agree on rouble payments for gas

REUTERS
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday hosted his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan at his Black Sea residence in Sochi. The leaders agreed to boost cooperation in the transport, agriculture, finance and construction sectors.

Turkey mediated a deal signed by Ukraine, Russia and the UN in Istanbul last month under which grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports resumed after months of blockade.

In the statement, Mr. Putin and Mr. Erdogan stressed the need for "the full implementation of the Istanbul agreement, including the unimpeded export of Russia's grain, fertilizer and raw materials for their production."

The two leaders also agreed to switch part of the payments for Russian gas to roubles, Russian Deputy PM Alexander Novak told reporters after the talks.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, and Vladimir Putin at Black Sea resort of Sochi. • AP

The two also "reaffirmed their determination to act in coordination and solidarity in the fight against all terrorist organisations" in Syria.

Ankara has carried out multiple operations in northern Syria since 2016, seizing hundreds of km of land and targeting the Kurdish YPG militia, despite opposition from Moscow.

Pak. to continue with import curbs: Minister

'Previous govt. to blame for current woes'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan's Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Friday said the government would continue to curb imports for the next three months, as he warned of "bad days" ahead for the cash-strapped country.

Addressing a ceremony at the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi, the Minister said the government headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was suffering because of the economic policies taken by the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

"During the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, the country's budget deficit was $1,600 billion and in the last four years under the PTI regime, that figure ballooned to $3,500," Geo TV quoted Ismail as saying. "No country can grow and be stable with this kind of current account deficit."

"When you raise the budget deficit and also increase the loans by 80%, it has an adverse impact on the economy," he explained.

"I will not allow imports to increase for three months and, in the meantime, we will come up with a policy. I understand that growth will be reduced for a bit but I have no other choice," the *Dawn* newspaper quoted him as saying.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES, NEW DELHI
Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 2022
Notice No. 02/2022 Date: 04.08.2022

It has been decided to fill up the vacant posts of Nursing Officers in National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, through Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET), 2022 to be conducted by AIIMS, New Delhi. **The On-line applications can be done through AIIMS web site www.aiimsexams.ac.in from 04.08.2022 to 21.08.2022 up to 5:00 P.M.**

The details are as under:-

1.	Name of Post	Nursing Officer
2.	Pay Level	Level-7 (44900-142400)

Essential Qualification

1. a. Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery / B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. (Post-Certificate) / Post-Basic B.Sc. from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing Council recognized Institute or University
b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State / Indian Nursing Council

Age Limit:

1. **Between 18-35 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of NITRD)**

All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form.

Number of Vacancies:

UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	PWBD	Total Posts
05	03	01	01	01	–	11

For other details, please visit Institute website www.nitrd.nic.in

APPLICATION FEES:

A) General/OBC Candidates - Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)
B) SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs.2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)
C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

- The candidate can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/CREDIT CARD/ NETBANKING. Transaction / Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the bank by the candidate.
- **Application fee once remitted shall not be refunded under any circumstances.**
- Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected.
- **Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after declaration of results in due course of time.**

Online (CBT) mode Examination Date: 11th September 2022 (Sunday)

Please visit AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in to apply online & for latest information.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(MAHATMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC WORKS)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12692 Date: 01.08.2022

ABSTRACT e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids in two covers are invited through "**e" Procurement Portal Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **Modernization/ Overhauling of OPU governing systems and pressure manifold blocks of Units at MGHE**, from regular dealer/ supplier/ manufacturer and shall have proven experience in the field of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of hydraulic OPU systems/ power packs or overhauling of hydraulic OPU systems at power plants/ industries in pre-qualifying requirements. Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **17.08.2022 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid: **18.08.2022 at 16.35 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MM)**, MGHE, Joglalls-577435, Sagar-Tq., Shivamogga-Dist. Mobile: +91 94495 98856.

Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.
milma
H.O. Peringolam, Kunnamangalam (PO), Kozhikode - 673 571
Kerala, Ph: 0495-2805413, 2805405, 2805408
Email: mrcmpu@malabarmilma.coop

MRU/P&I/322/ 2022-23 02.08.2022

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited from eligible Agencies/Parties for the Supply of Green Maize Fodder, Baled Maize Silage wrapped with plastic film (50 Kg bale type) & Maize Silage filled in plastic bags (40 Kg bags) to the various Dairy Co-operative Societies under MRCMPU Ltd., For more details visit **www.malabarmilma.com, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
E-Tender Id : 2022_KCMMF_501854_1, 2022_KCMMF_501900_1, 2022_KCMMF_501873_1
Last Date: 23.08.2022, 17:00 Hrs. (sd/-)
Managing Director

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES
Office Of The Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. To CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024
Email: commissioneradvs@gmail.com Ph: 080-23412767

Tender Ref. No: CAH:VMS:SS:Equipments:Tender:2022-23 Dated: 04.08.2022

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites Short term Re-tender through e-Procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible tenderers **for procurement of Veterinary Equipments to Super speciality Hospitals/ speciality Hospitals/ Polyclinics and Mobile Veterinary Units for the years 2022-23 & 2023-24** for a period of two years. Tendered Amount is Rs.897.99 lakhs. Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from 04.08.2022 and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through e-procurement portal **from 04.08.2022 to 18.08.2022 till 17.30 hours.** Further information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director,
Veterinary Medical Stores,
Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,
Pashupalana Bhavana, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore- 560 024.

DIPR/CP/Advt/1676/2022-23

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
No. 5 & 6, 5th Floor, JALABHAVAN, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore -29
Phone : 080-41106504 -18/26, Fax : 080-26539206, e-mail : cekwsbng@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement Portal Only)

Lumpsum tender for the following works are invited (Two cover system) through e-procurement from eligible Agency / Contractors as detailed below:

No.:KWB/CE(B)/DBP Nagarothana/751/2022-23 Dt:04.08.2022

1) Name & Description of Work : Construction of one no. **of 2.50 LL capacity RCC shaft type OHT on 15 mtr staging in Kurubarahalli Ashraya Badavane & Construction of one no. of 5.00 LL capacity RCC shaft type OHT on 15 mtr staging in Bhuvaneshwari Nagar in Doddaballapura city under Nagarothana municipality 3 grants (Lumpsum) (Work Indent No. KUWSDB/ 2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT3202).**
Approximate Value of work : **Rs. 182.89 Lakhs.** E.M.D.: **Rs. 2.75 Lakhs.** Tender processing fee : **As per e-procurement portal.** Period of Completion of the work: **11months including monsoon.**

Calender of Events	
Documents will be available from	**06.08.2022 after 11.00 Hrs.**
Date of Pre-bid Meeting	**12.08.2022 at 11.30 Hrs.**
Last date & time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal	**20.08.2022 upto 17.30 Hrs.**
Date & time for opening of Technical Bids	**24.08.2022 after 11.00 Hrs.**

For further details, the office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-procurement helpdesk 080-22371090 / 22373788, e-mail support : hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/JA/1679/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that our client has entered into an agreement to develop the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property") with Mr. Venappa alias Venu, son of Late Thimmarayappa. The aforesaid Mr. Venappa alias Venu has represented to our client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property having uninhibited rights of alienation over the same and that none else has any manner of right over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within Fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for development of the Schedule Property by our client.

SCHEDULE (Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing land bearing Survey No. 49 measuring 1 Acre 1 Gunta, situated in Kaggalipura Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded as follows:

On the East by : Land belonging to Mr. C. Kumar in Survey No. 49;
On the West by : Land belonging to Mrs. Gowramma and Mr. A. S. Nagaraju in Survey No. 49;
On the North by : Remaining portion of land in Survey No. 49 belonging to Mr. Balakrishna and Mr. Jagadish; and
On the South by : Remaining portion of land in Survey No. 49 belonging to Mr. Ravikumar.

CRESTLAW PARTNERS **A. Supreeth, Partner**
Advocates
No. 33, Xavier Layout, 1st Cross, Victoria Road, Bengaluru – 560 047
Ph: 080 – 4147 3535/36/37 Place : Bengaluru
E-mail: supreeth@crestlawpartners.in Date : Aug 06, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that our client has entered into an agreement to develop the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property") with Mr. Ravikumar, son of Mr. Akkala Reddy. The aforesaid Mr. Ravikumar has represented to our client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property having uninhibited rights of alienation over the same and that none else has any manner of right over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within Fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for development of the Schedule Property by our client.

SCHEDULE (Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing agricultural land bearing Survey No. 49, measuring 1 Acres 11 Guntas, situated in Kaggalipura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded as follows:

On the East by : Land belonging to Mr. C. Kumar in Survey No. 49;
On the West by : Land belonging to Mr. A. S. Nagaraju in Survey No. 49;
On the North by : Remaining portion of land in Survey No. 49 belonging to Mr. Venappa alias Venu; and
On the South by : Land bearing Survey No. 80.

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Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd
IRCTC
(A Government of India Enterprise-Mini Ratna Category-I)
South Central Zone
#8-1-129/1/102, 1st Floor, Oxford Plaza, SD Road, Secunderabad - 500003
CIN:U74899DL1999GOI101707

Notice Inviting E-Tender

GGM/SCZ invites the following E-Tenders:-

Open E-Tender for engagement of service provider for operation, maintenance and provision of catering services in **Refreshment Rooms, Jan Aahars, Food Plazas, Fast Food units and ROMT of Retiring rooms and dormitories at various stations over South Central Zone of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (South Central Railway, East Coast Railway & South East Central Railway)**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sl. No.	Type of unit	Last Date and time for submission of tenders	Date & Time for opening of E-Tender
1	Refreshment Room (Vijayawada)	15:00 hrs of 25.08.2022	15:30 hrs of 25.08.2022
2	Refreshment Rooms	15:30 hrs of 25.08.2022	16:00 hrs of 25.08.2022
3	Jan Aahars	15:00 hrs of 26.08.2022	15:30 hrs of 26.08.2022
4	Fast Food units	15:30 hrs of 26.08.2022	16:00 hrs of 26.08.2022
5	Food Plazas	16:30 hrs of 26.08.2022	17:00 hrs of 26.08.2022
6	Retiring Rooms	15:00 hrs of 30.08.2022	15:30 hrs of 30.08.2022

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on Website:- < www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC >

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on website **www.irctc.com** and **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC**. No newspaper press advertisement shall be issued for the same.

MARKET WATCH

	05-08-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,388	0.15
US Dollar	79.24	0.20
Gold	52,592	0.04
Brent oil	95.77	2.18

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	810.25	3.00
Apollo Hosp	4374.10	-21.70
Asian Paints	3473.90	13.40
Axis Bank	728.50	6.90
Bajaj Auto	4013.10	1.40
Bajaj Finserv	15085.85	-99.45
Bajaj Finance	7304.70	-11.95
Bharti Airtel	703.65	9.35
BPCL	336.40	2.45
Britannia Ind	3688.10	-86.95
Cipla	1034.20	-10.10
Coal India	208.45	1.10
Divis Lab	3912.20	24.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4156.85	8.90
Eicher Motors	3089.60	-56.20
Grasim Ind	1598.30	18.95
HCL Tech	957.75	-0.35
HDFC	2355.20	-6.55
HDFC Bank	1427.05	-4.85
HDFC Life	539.25	4.35
Hero MotoCorp	2770.70	-36.30
Hindalco	410.80	-10.90
Hind Unilever	2645.40	17.45
ICICI Bank	838.20	17.95
Indusind Bank	1036.30	-13.90
Infosys	1616.65	16.75
ITC	310.85	1.35
JSW Steel	667.15	2.80
Kotak Bank	1833.90	-1.65
L&T	1787.45	7.35
M&M	1235.90	-25.90
Maruti Suzuki	8841.20	-125.50
Nestle India Ltd.	19921.50	71.50
NTPC	155.60	0.90
ONGC	136.50	0.25
PowerGrid Corp	223.65	2.85
Reliance Ind	2534.00	-37.90
SBI Life	1266.65	-12.15
State Bank	531.05	-2.20
Shree Cement	21237.40	549.50
Sun Pharma	915.95	-2.55
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	784.80	-4.45
Tata Motors	465.25	-1.65
Tata Steel	107.35	-0.35
TCS	3365.05	10.10
Tech Mahindra	1058.20	2.15
Titan	2432.80	9.15
UltraTech Cement	6775.20	187.15
UPL	743.45	11.70
Wipro	440.00	4.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.03	79.35
Euro	80.89	81.22
British Pound	95.97	96.36
Japanese Yen (100)	59.37	59.63
Chinese Yuan	11.71	11.76
Swiss Franc	82.70	83.04
Singapore Dollar	57.44	57.69
Canadian Dollar	61.30	61.55
Malaysian Ringitt	17.75	17.83
Australian Dollar	54.91	55.13

Source: Indian Bank

Titan Co. Q1 net jumps multifold to ₹1,066 cr.

BENGALURU

Titan Company Ltd. reported first-quarter profit jumped multifold to ₹1,066 crore from ₹82 crore in the year-earlier period.

Banks cannot always rely on RBI to fund credit offtake: Das

Lenders need to mobilise more deposits to aid credit growth, says RBI Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said banks could not perennially rely on the central bank's money to support credit offtake and needed to mobilise more deposits to aid credit growth.

He said banks had already begun to pass on the increase in repo rates to depositors and that the trend was expected to continue.

"When there is a credit offtake, banks can sustain and support that credit offtake only if they have higher deposits," Mr. Das told reporters during the post-policy meeting. "They cannot be relying on the central bank money on a perennial basis to support credit offtake ... they have to mobilise their own resources and funds."

Ripple effect: Banks have already started to raise deposit rates and the trend is expected to continue, says Das • PTI

Third in a row

Friday's increase in the repo rate by 50 bps to 5.4% was the third increase in a row by the RBI since May in its fight against inflation which has been hovering above the central bank's upper tolerance band of 4-6%. Retail inflation was 7.01% for June.

In May, RBI had raised the repo rate by 40 basis points (bps) and increased it again by 50 bps in June.

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said there had been very aggressive deposit mobilisation starting with bulk deposits. "We expect deposit mobilisation to catch up with the credit very quickly," he said.

In the fortnight ended July 15, bank credit grew 12.89% and deposits by 8.35%.

Asked whether there was concern about higher amounts of bad loans being written off by banks, compared with recoveries and upgradation, Deputy Governor M.K. Jain clarified that these were prudential write-offs without forgoing the right to recovery.

'Rate hike may hit home sales'

Costlier loans, rising input costs to impact sales: Anarock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to raise interest rates will impact housing sales, according to top officials of real estate consulting firms and developers.

"With the hike of 50 bps in policy rates, home loan lending rates would now edge further into the red zone," said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group.

"This whammy comes along with the inflationary trends of primary raw materials, including cement, steel, labour that have recently led to a rise in property prices. Together, these factors will impact residential sales," he added.

"For the real estate sector specifically, the third subsequent rate rise will

mean a deterioration of affordability and may impact homebuyers' sentiments," said Shishir Baijal, CMD, Knight Frank India.

Shrinking affordability

"With the cumulative rate hikes until today, assuming complete transmission, a prospective homebuyer's affordability shrinks by around 11% (i.e. the ability to purchase a house of ₹1 crore value shrinks to ₹89 lakh now)," he added. Developers were likely to undertake mitigating measures to soften the blow on homebuyer affordability.

"There has been an increase in appetite for home ownership post the pandemic, and with the upcoming festive season, it might generally withstand the marginal changes in loan rates," said Anshuman Magazine, chairman and CEO - India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE.

"Sales in the real estate sector are mainly funded through retail financial institutions and we expect that marginal changes will have a minimal impact on buying decisions," said M. Murali, CMD, Shriram Properties Ltd.

M&M Q1 net rises 67% on auto, farm sectors

Revenue climbs 67% to ₹19,613 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported first-quarter standalone net profit after exceptional items grew 67% to ₹1,430 crore following better performance by the company's auto and farm-equipment divisions.

Revenue grew 67% to ₹19,613 crore, M&M said.

On a consolidated basis, net profit grew more than fivefold to ₹2,196 crore. Consolidated revenue climbed 48% to ₹28,412 crore.

"We saw good momentum across all our group companies, led by the strong results of the auto and farm sectors," Anish Shah, MD & CEO, said.

"We recorded our highest quarterly revenue for auto

and farm segments and delivered robust operational and financial performance in Q1," said Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director.

"M&M continues to maintain its number one position in SUV revenue market share, while farm equipment sector strengthened its leadership position with 42.7% tractor market share," he added.

Govt. lifts sugar export cap to 112 lakh tonnes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has decided to raise the sugar export limit to 112 lakh metric tonnes (MT) from a 100-lakh MT cap placed in May, citing an increase in production and a drop in consumption during the intervening months.

Sugar exports had touched the 100 lakh MT cap on August 1, and the government said the additional exports of 12 lakh MT would help earn foreign exchange, reduce trade deficit and improve sugar mills' liquidity by ₹3,600 crore. Mills would be able to clear farmers' dues that stood at ₹9,700 crore as on August 4, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said.

RBI move shows intent to bring down inflation, says SBI's Khara

Retaining FY23 growth outlook encouraging: FICCI chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara said the RBI policy statement reaffirmed the commitment to bring inflation down further and ensure financial stability in markets.

"RBI... has harmonised key measures, ensuring the economy remains cushioned to the maximum extent from the impact of inflation in everyday lives," Mr. Khara said.

"Developmental measures are largely aimed at ensuring broad-based participation in G-Secs and the foreign exchange market," he added.

Yes Bank chief economist

Moderation in commodity prices may offer some respite on inflation

SANJIV MEHTA
FICCI president

Indranil Pan said with the trajectory of CPI inflation pointing downwards, he expected the RBI to moderate the pace of rate increases and "raise the repo rate by 25-35 bps in September and 25 bps in December to 5.9-6% and pause thereafter to assess the growth-inflation dynamics".

Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) president Sanjiv Mehta said inflation had been above the comfort range of the central bank but, "the recent moderation in global commodity prices should hopefully offer some respite going ahead".

'Uncertainty remains'

"Uncertainty on the external front remains," Mr. Mehta said. "Nonetheless, the central bank has retained the growth forecast... at 7.2% – which is encouraging."

On the RBI's decision to enable Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to accept cross-border inward bill payments, Pranay Jhaveri, MD – India & South Asia, Euronet Worldwide, said, "It is a step in the right direction... as it may get additional foreign exchange into the country".

BBPS to take up inbound bill payments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India will allow the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to process cross-border inbound bill payments.

The measure has been taken for the convenience of NRIs and their families staying in India, especially senior citizens. "The BBPS is an interoperable platform for standardised bill payments," the RBI said. "This has transformed the bill payment experience for users in India," it noted.

"More than 20,000 billers are part of the system, and more than 8 crore transactions are processed" monthly, the RBI said in its Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies on Friday.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

CWG 2022: Sony Ten 2, 3, Six & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards.
Chess Olympiad 2022: FIDE & Chessbase India YouTube channels, 3 p.m. onwards.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 4th T20I, FanCode & DD Sports, 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Unvaccinated Djokovic out of Montreal event

MONTREAL

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic, whose refusal to be vaccinated against Covid makes him unable to enter Canada, has officially withdrawn from the ATP hardcourt tournament in Montreal, organisers said on Thursday. It also means he will probably miss the US Open starting later in August. AFP

Dushyant to lead Indian volleyball squad

CHENNAI

Dushyant Singh will lead the Indian men's team in the AVC Cup International volleyball tournament to be held at Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, from August 7 to 14.

The team: Dushyant Singh (captain), Joshnoor Dhindsa, Sandeep, Ajay Kumar, Sameer Chaudhary, Tanish Choudhary, Harshit Giri, Aman Kumar, Jibin Job, Sachin Dagar, Mannat Choudhary, Ajeet Shekho, K. Karthikeyan, Suryaprakash Banjara.
Head coach: G. E. Sridharan; **Assistant coaches:** Rajesh Kumar, Praveen Sharma.

Chelsea signs Cucurella from Brighton

LONDON

Chelsea has signed Spanish defender Marc Cucurella from Premier League rival Brighton on a six-year contract, the London club announced on Friday. AFP

Prabhu in Pro-Stock 165cc pole

Kayan Zubin in front in Novice (Stock 165cc) category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Pacer Yamaha's Prabhu Arunagiri and Mumbai youngster Kayan Zubin Patel (Axor Sparks Racing) qualified for pole positions in Pro-Stock 165cc and Novice (Stock 165cc) categories, in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 here on Friday.

Clocking a hot lap of one minute, 55.942secs, Prabhu scored over Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) and K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) with less than a second separating the trio.

Kayan (02.08.016) edged out Varun Nanjundegowda (02:08.175) while Md. Samrul Zuair qualified third in 02:08.665. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing), winner of all four races in the previous two rounds, was fourth in 02:08.705.

The results (qualifying):

National Championship – Pro-Stock 165cc Open: 1. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha) (01min, 55.942secs); 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) (01:55.947); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) (01:56.066).

Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Kayan Zubin Patel (Axor Sparks Racing) (02:08.016); 2. Varun Nanjunde Gowda (Axor Sparks Racing) (02:08.175); 3. Md. Samrul Zubair (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (02:08.665).

Support race (Stock 301-400cc): 1. Jayanth Prathipati (02:03.385); 2. Sandeep Gorai (Raganpur) (02:04.701); 3. Shazan Khan (02:04.869).

Scorching the track: Prabhu clocked a hot lap of one minute, 55.942secs. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Open (Apache RR310): 1. Alwin Sundar (01:54.827); 2. Rahil Pillarisetty (01:54.870); 3. Manoj Yesuadiyan (01:55.216).

Girls (Apache RTR200): 1. Aditi Krishnan (02:13.521); 2. Ananya Awasthi (02:14.760); 3. Nishitha (02:15.850).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup – Novice (CBR 150): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (02:07.249); 2. Siddesh Sawant (02:07.987); 3. Rajender Beedani (02:08.946).

Narendra Thapa passes away

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Narendra Thapa, the star forward who became one of the biggest names of Indian football in the 1980s, passed away on Friday. Thapa suffered a cardiac arrest in his sleep, said his former national teammate and Food Corporation of India colleague Aloke Mukherjee. The immensely popular forward was 58. Thapa began his career in the early 80s and became highly regarded for his skill as a forward.

Thapa made his national team debut in 1983 and played 29 matches for the country.

Thapa scored the lone goal in India's 1-0 triumph over Algeria in the 1984 Great Wall Cup in Beijing.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: Srikar and Snigdha, boys' and girls' champions in the Transform Super Series u-14 tennis. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Champions: The winners in different categories of the State badminton championship. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Smaran's unbeaten 175 powers Mount Joy

Smaran Ramesh's unbeaten 175 powered Mount Joy CC past Modern CC in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Mount Joy 335/7 in 45 overs (R. Suhas 46, Smaran Ramesh 175 n.o., Varun Annadani 28, Rishit Negi 3/55, Nischith Kini 3/55) bt Modern 192 in 36.3 overs (Tejas Iyengar 40, Samyam Vinay 36, Nischith Kini 31, Samit Ramesh 3/38). (overs reduced due to rain).

Malleswaram Gymkhana 171/5 in 32 overs (Poovaiah 31, K. Sharan 38, Saurav Samant 49 n.o., Ronith Iyengar 3/20) lost to Friends Union (1) 139/4 in 17 overs (Pranav Babu 50) (overs and target reduced due to rain).

Social Cricketers 185 in 48.3 overs (K.N. Anish 31, Krishiv Bajaj 48, Vinay Kumar 47) lost to Vijaya 186/2 in 25.3 overs (Thippa Reddy 59, P. Dhruv 57 n.o., Prakar Chaturvedi 57 n.o.).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 256/9 in 50 overs (Prahas Nairy 67, V. Akash 37, H.R. Omkar 29, Rohan Kumar 26, Ibrahim Ahmed 3/35) bt Vikram 169 in 43 overs (D.G. Nithin 25, Ibrahim Ahmed 61 n.o., Vismai Bahuguna 3/38, H.R. Omkar 3/23).

Cambridge 130 in 28.5 overs (Muhammad Saad 26, Anand Arun 4/42) lost to Jawans 135/1 in 16.5 overs (Shashank Krishnamurthy 38 n.o., Srujan Nandan 65 n.o.).

Friends Union (2) 264/7 in 50 overs (Vishnu Viran 95, Vedanth Iyer 39, Adarsh Patil 72, Manuveer Mahajan 3/45) bt Visweswarapuram (1) 212/9 in 50 overs (Ujwal Gowda 69, Kathit 38, Manuveer Mahajan 26, Ansh Singh 3/34).

Visweswarampuram (2) 172 in 43.4 overs (Karan Sharma 31, Mathew Nilugul 47, Kushal Keshav 26, Rishikesh 3/14) lost to Bangalore United (1) 173/1 in 27.5 overs (A. Yuvraj 101 n.o., Pradnyan Parag 36 n.o.).

Coles 315/6 in 50 overs (Rishav Appachu 50, Adwait Jain 43, Sarvesh Raju 101, R. Pratham 63) bt Jolly Cricketers 192 in 43.2 overs (C. Prateek 45, Raj Kumar 35, Babu Gaddam 37, R. Pratham 3/34).

Srikar, Snighda win titles

Srikar Doni and Snigdha Kanta emerged as the champions in the boys and girls categories in the KSLTA Transform Super Series under-14 tennis tournament at KSLTA Stadium here on Friday.

The results (finals):

Boys: Srikar Doni bt M. Diganth 6-2, 6-3

Girls: Snigdha Kanta bt Savitha Bhuveneswaran (TN) 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

Brace by Sai Sreekaran

Sai Sreekaran scored a brace to propel Chinmaya Vidyalaya past St. John's HS 5-1 in the St. Joseph's Boys High School Centenary Shield hockey tournament at the KSHA Hockey Stadium here.

The results: Centenary Shield (Under-17): Chinmaya Vidyalaya 5 (Sai Sreekaran 2, 12, 26, Chetan Kumar 20, 34) bt St. John's HS 1 (Alwin 33).

Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial (U-14): Vidyashilp Academy 1 (Neil 24) bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya 0.

Abhishek, Rujula triumph

Abhishek Yeligar and Rujula Ramu emerged as the men's and women's singles champions in the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State badminton championship at KBA here.

The results (finals):

Men: Abhishek Yeligar bt Ayush Shetty 21-13, 17-21, 21-17. **Doubles:** Sai Pratheek & V. Suhas bt H.V. Nithin & Vaibhaav Vaibhaav 21-17, 21-18.

Women: Rujula Ramu bt Alfiya Riyaz 21-8, 21-11. **Doubles:** Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam bt Apeksha Nayak & Ramya Venkatesh 21-7, 21-14.

Mixed doubles: Sai Pratheek & Ashwini Bhat bt Kiran Kumar & Apeksha Nayak 21-17, 5-3 (retired).

Under-19: Boys: Ayush Shetty bt Aruj Maheswari 3-1 (retired). **Doubles:** Aditya Diwakar & Tarun Basavaraj bt K.K. Abhishek & Laksh Chengappa 14-21, 21-15, 26-24.

Girls: Neysa Cariappa bt Rujula Ramu 14-21, 21-14, 21-18. **Doubles:** Vriddhi Ponnamma & Aditi Deepak bt Aradhana Balachandra & Muskaan Khan 21-16, 12-21, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: K.K. Abhishek & Muskaan Khan bt Dhanush Gowda & Aditi Deepak 21-14, 16-21, 21-18.

Veteran: Men: Harish Ramaraju bt Ashok Kumar 21-16, 21-18.

Rupal wins 400m bronze

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

A day after winning the 400m bronze in a stunning personal best time of 51.85s, Rupal Chaudhary carried India to the women's 4x400m relay final at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia, on Friday.

The Indian team of Summy, Priya Mohan, Rajitha Kunja and Rupal clocked 3:34.18s, a new under-20 National record, as it finished second in the semifinal, behind Finland.

Rupal's time in the individual 400m earlier was the third fastest time by an Asian woman this year.

Britain's Yemi Mary John won the gold in 51.50s.

It was Rupal's second medal in Cali. She had won the 4x400m mixed relay silver earlier.

Meanwhile, Selva Thirumaran entered the men's triple jump final after finishing second in his group and third overall with 15.99m.

Raza, Kaia star for Zimbabwe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HARARE

Sikandar Raza and Innocent Kaia struck centuries as Zimbabwe stunned Bangladesh by five wickets on Friday in the first match of a three ODI series.

The scores:

Bangladesh 303/2 in 50 overs (Liton Das 81 retd. hurt, Anamul Haque 73, Tamim Iqbal 62, Mushfiqur Rahim 52 n.o.) lost to Zimbabwe 307/5 in 48.2 overs (Sikandar Raza 135 n.o., Innocent Kaia 110).

MoM: Raza.

Bajrang, Sakshi and Deepak make it a gold rush

Anshu finishes with silver; Divya and Mohit add to the grapplers' tally with a bronze as India rises to fifth in the medals table

Grapplers' day out: Deepak had the measure of Inam while Sakshi won by fall against Gonzalez. Anshu went down fighting against Adekuoroye before Mohit and Divya picked up a bronze each. Bajrang began India's gold hunt with a dominant display. •REUTERS

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist Bajrang Punia – spurred on by cries of *"Bharat Mata ki jai"* from a boisterous crowd – crushed Canada's Lachlan McNeil 9-2 and defended his Commonwealth Games wrestling gold in the men's freestyle 65kg category at the Coventry Arena on Friday.

Lachlan was put on the passivity clock and Bajrang effected a two-point takedown while using explosive strength to throw his opponent off balance. Pushing the Canadian outside the limits of the mat, Bajrang led 4-0 at the break.

McNeil got his first points with a double leg trap to have Bajrang face down on the mat. Incidentally, those were the only two points Bajrang lost enroute the gold.

Later, Bajrang, featuring in his third Commonwealth Games, showed his authority by grabbing the Canadian by the leg on two consecutive occasions to walk him out of the mat.

Deepak Punia and Sakshi Malik, too, bagged gold medals. The former beat Muhammad Inam of Pakistan 3-0 in the men's 86kg freestyle final, while the latter defeated Canada's Ana Godinez Gonzalez by fall in the women's freestyle 62 kg final.

Anshu Malik won the silver medal in women's freestyle 57kg after she went down fighting to Nigeria's Odunayo Folasade Adekuoroye.

Anshu, the first Indian woman to win a silver at the World wrestling championships in 2021, looked to put her Tokyo disappointment behind as she tried to underhook her taller opponent and stop the Nigerian from getting a leg-hold. Adekuoroye, who displayed an excellent defensive game, got the first two points by tying Anshu's legs up.

Anshu, who had had an easy run until the final, took time to get used to her opponent, who was also the only African to have ever entered the Worlds final. Anshu, who won her first point owing to Adekuoroye's passivity, conceded further as her opponent led with a double leg to go round the back. Anshu finally pocketed two points in the dying moments of the game with a frantic leg grab, but that wasn't enough. A crestfallen Anshu refused to get up from the mat after the bout.

Later, Divya Kakran beat Tiger Lily Cocker Lemalier by fall in just 26 seconds to win the bronze in the women's 68kg. Mohit Grewal beat Aaron Johnson of Jamaica by fall in the men's 125kg to finish with a bronze and take India's tally to six.

Sreeshankar wins silver

Misses gold by the smallest of margins

Leaping into history: Sreeshankar battled to the silver despite struggling to find his rhythm in chilly conditions. •PTI

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

M. Sreeshankar brought the Alexander Stadium crowd to its feet on Thursday having become India's first silver winner in men's long jump at the Commonwealth Games.

That "one big jump" came on his fifth attempt – an 8.08m with a tailwind of 1.5 m/s.

Sreeshankar's fourth jump was better but ruled out by a margin so little that the breach on the footboard was not even visible to the naked eye.

Disbelief

Sreeshankar was seen talking to one of the officials, checking the replays on a giant screen and putting his hands on his head in disbelief.

"It was really unbelievable. It was not even one centimetre. When I saw the foot planted on the board, it was a perfect take-off... I felt that jump was like an 8.10. I had even raised my finger," Sreeshankar said, wrapped in the tricolour after the medal ceremony.

Bahrain's Laquan Nairn picked up the gold with a best of 8.08m, equal to Sreeshankar, but with a second-best of 7.98, while Sreeshankar's was 7.84. South Africa's Jovan van Vuuren took the bronze medal with 8.06.

India's other competitor, Muhammed Anees Yahiya came fifth with a jump of 7.97m.

A 7.99m effort would have sufficed for Sreeshankar on the last attempt to bring home the gold. However, it was not to be as he overshot the footboard limit once again.

Going all out

"I went all out and again I was fouled by the smallest of margins. Hard luck but I am happy with the silver medal," Sreeshankar said.

Sudhir claims gold with Games record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

India's Sudhir Singh claimed the men's heavyweight para powerlifting gold in the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

Sudhir lifted 208kg on his first attempt before increasing it to 212kg to gather 134.5 points and break the Games record.

The 27-year-old Sudhir, who has an impairment due to the effects of polio, thus opened India's para sports medal account at the CWG.

Ikechukwu Christian Obichukwu of Nigeria won silver with 133.6 points, while Micky Yule of Scotland bagged the bronze with 130.9 points. Sudhir has also qualified for the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games.

Sudhir Singh. •GETTY IMAGES

TOP INDIAN PICKS

A look at some of the Indian players/teams who will be in action on Saturday:

Athletics: Women: 10,000m race walk (final): Bhawna Jat, Priyanka Goswami (3 p.m.); 4x100 relay (heats), 4.45 p.m. Hammer (finals): Manju Bala (11.30 p.m.). Men: 3000m steeplechase (final): Avinash Sable (4.20 p.m.).

Boxing (semifinals): Women: Minimumweight: Nitu Ganghas vs. Priyanka Dhillon (3 p.m.). Light flyweight: Nikhat Zareen vs. Savannah Alfiya Stubley (7.15 p.m.); Lightweight: Jaismine vs. Gemma Paige Richardson (10 p.m.). Men: Flyweight: Amit Panghal vs. Patrick Chinyemba (3.30 p.m.). Welterweight: Rohit Tokas vs. Stephen Zimba (12.45 a.m., August 7); Super heavyweight: Sagar vs. Ifeanyi Onyekwere (1.30 a.m., August 7).

Cricket: Women (semifinals): vs. England (3.30 p.m.).

Hockey: Men (semifinals): vs. South Africa (10:30 p.m.).

Table tennis: 2 p.m. onwards.

Wrestling: 3 p.m. onwards.

All times IST.

Medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
Australia	50	43	43	136
England	45	44	36	125
Canada	18	23	24	65
New Zealand	16	10	13	39
India	**9**	**8**	**9**	**26**

INDIANS' JOURNEY

Athletics: Men: Long jump (final): M. Sreeshankar (silver), Muhammed Anees Yahiya (5th); Men: 4x400m relay (heats): Second in Heat 2 (enters final); Women: 100m hurdles (heats): Y. Jyothi (10th overall, DNQ for final); Long jump (qualifying): Ancy Sojan (14th overall, DNQ for final).

Badminton (round-of-16): Men: K. Srikanth bt Dumindu Abeywickrama (SL) 2-0; Lakshya Sen bt Ying Xiang Lin (Aus) 2-0. Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Husina Kobugabe (Uga) 2-0; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Eva Kattirtzi (Cyp) 2-0. **Doubles:** Treesa/Gayatri bt Leung For Sang/Mungrah (Mri) 2-0.

Lawn Bowls: Men's Fours (semifinals): bt England 13-12.

Squash: Women's doubles (quarterfinals): Joshana/Dipika lost to Chan/Ampandi (Mas) 0-2; Men's doubles (round-of-16): Velavan/Abhay bt Kempsell/Clyne (Sco) 2-1.

Rolling into the final: India made the lawn bowls men's fours title clash beating England 13-12 in the last four. •GETTY IMAGES

Table tennis: Women: Singles (quarterfinals): Sreeja Akula bt Mo Zhang (Can) 4-3; Manika Batra lost to Jian Zeng (Sgp) 0-4. Doubles (round-of-32): Manika/Diya bt Chung/Spicer (TTO) 3-0; Sreeja/Reeth bt Elliott/Plaistow (Sco) 3-0; Men: Singles (round-of-32): Sharath Kamal bt Finn Luu (Aus) 4-0; Sanil Shetty bt Derek Abrefa (Gha) 4-0; Sathiyan bt Paul McCreery (NIR) 4-0; Doubles (quarterfinals): Sharath/Sathiyan bt Jarvis/Walker (Eng) 3-0; Harmeet/Sanil lost to Chew/Poh (Sgp) 0-3; Mixed doubles (quarterfinals): Sharath/Sreeja bt Pitchford/Ho (Eng) 3-2; Sathiyan/Manika lost to Choong/Lyne (Mas) 2-3.

Wrestling: Men: Freestyle: 65kg (gold medal contest): Bajrang Punia bt Lachlan McNeil (Can); 86kg (gold medal contest): Deepak Punia bt Muhammad Inam (Pak); 125kg (bronze medal contest): Mohit Grewal bt Aaron Johnson (Jam); Women: Freestyle: 57kg (gold medal contest): Anshu Malik lost to Odunayo Folasade Adekuoroye (Ngr); 62kg (gold medal contest): Sakshi Malik bt Ana Godinez Gonzalez (Can); 68kg (bronze medal contest): Divya Kakran bt Tiger Lily Cocker Lemalie (Tga).

Tania and Vaishali drive India 1

No stopping Gukesh; Armenia, USA produce sensational draw

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

A day of sensational drama produced some thrilling action, with some late strikes changing the projected results on its head.

For instance, India 1 needed Tania Sachdev and R. Vaishali to post victories to more than nullify the defeat of K. Humpy in a thrilling match against sixth seed Azerbaijan.

In the Open section, USA and Armenia produced a sensationl 2-2 draw.

Armenia stayed in the lead at 13 points, one ahead of USA and India among others.

A seventh win for D. Gukesh was the high point of an expected victory for India 2 against Cuba.

In what was the first-ever clash involving Indians teams in an Olympiad, Arjun Erigaisi and S.L. Narayanan struck on the lower boards for India 1 to push India 3 down the slope.

After P. Harikrishna once again showed how well prepared in the opening phase against Surya Shekhar Ganguly in their drawn game, Narayanan scored over Abhimanyu Puranik on Board 4.

Vidit Gujrathi was again involved in a draw, but Arjun Erigaisi downed Abhijeet Gupta.

Focused: Vaishali's win helped India 1 subdue Azerbaijan. •B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The results (with match-points): Seventh round: Open: India 1 (12) bt India 3 (10) 3-1 (P. Harikrishna drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Vidit Gujrathi drew with S. P. Sethuraman; Arjun Erigaisi bt Abhijeet Gupta; S. L. Narayanan bt Abhimanyu Puranik).

Cuba (10) lost to India 2 (12) 0.5-3.5 (Carlos Daniel Albornoz Cabrera lost to D. Gukesh; Luis Ernesto Quusada Perez lost to Nihal Sarin; Isan Reynaldo Ortiz Saurez lost to R. Praggnanandhaa; Omar Almeida Quintana drew with B. Adhiban).

Armenia (13) drew with USA (12) 2-2; France (11) drew with Netherlands (11) 2-2; Serbia (10) lost to Germany (12) 1.5-2.5; Peru (10) lost to Uzbekisthan (12) 0-4; Spain (9) lost to Kazakhstan (12) 1.5-2.5; Azerbaijan (11) bt Israel (9) 3-1; Greece (10) drew with Ukraine (10) 2-2; Brazil (11) bt England (9) 2.5-1.5.

Women: Azerbaijan (11) lost to India 1 (14) 1.5-2.5 (Gunay Mammdzada bt K. Humpy; Khanim Balajayeva drew with D. Harika; Govhar Beydullayeva lost to R. Vaishali; Ulviyya Fataliyeva lost to Tania Sachdev).

India 2 (9) lost to Greece (11) 1.5-2.5 (Vantika Agrawal lost to Stavroula Tsolakidou; Soumya Swaminathan lost to Anastastia Avramidou; Mary Ann Gomes drew with Ekaterini Pavlidou; Divya Deshmukh bt Hartomeni Markantonaki).

India 3 (11) bt Switzerland (9) 3-1 (Eesha Karavade bt Lena Georgescu; P. V. Nandhidhaa bt Ghazal Hakimifard; Pratyusha Bodda drew with Gundula Heinatz; Vishwa Vasnawala drew with Laura Stoeri).

Georgia (12) bt Romania (11) 2.5-1.5; Ukraine (12) bt Netherlands (10) 3.5-0.5; Poland (11) drew with Bulgaria (11) 2-2; Armenia (12) bt Israel (10) 2.5-1.5; Kazakhstan (11) bt Vietnam (10) 2.5-1.5.

The Armenia-USA contest turned out to be fascinating

VISWANATHAN ANAND

Today was another dramatic day of play. For a while it looked like P. Harikrishna was doing better against Surya Sekhar Ganguly in the clash between India 1 and India 3, but then Surya knew how to defend. In the end, though, Arjun Erigaisi and S.L. Narayanan broke through.

Narayanan found a very pretty combination with bishop capturing on f2 square and Arjun just outplayed Abhijeet Gupta quite slowly.

Some elegant manoeuvers in the queen-endgame convinced Abhijeet to resign immediately. So, a big win for India 1 and the team stays in contention.

As expected, the Armenia-USA contest turned out to be a fascinating encounter. Wesley So got a winning position very quickly against Hrant Melkumyan after the Armenian made a blunder. He moved a pawn forward, not seeing that his opponent could simply capture with the rook.

And if he recaptured it with a pawn, Wesley could further sacrifice a queen and beat him. It must have slipped his mind and he never really got back into the game. Let's look at the end few moves from the game between them.

Wesley has just sacrificed his rook. Melkumyan saw what was coming and didn't capture it. Let's see what happens if he did.

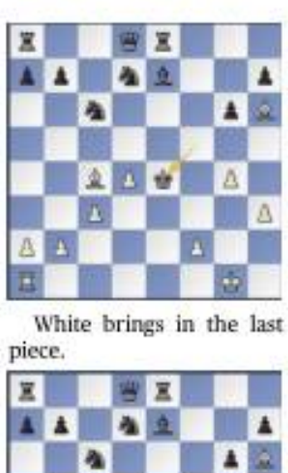
Now White sacrifices his queen!

Black has to take it.

Black's king has no choice from now on.

Then the knight...

White brings in the last piece.



And finally, mate!

Gabriel Sargissian outplayed Fabiano Caruana and Armenia levelled, and it came down to the final two boards where Leinier Dominguez Perez was winning against Samvel Ter-Sahakyan, and Sam Shankland was struggling against Robert Hovhannisyan.

Dominguez duly converted. But Shankland was totally lost. He defended tenaciously, his opponent overreached, slipped up a bit and suddenly Shankland reached a drawn position. In time pressure, Shankland seemed to have responded to a move he thought was played, whereas his opponent had stopped his queen, a square earlier. As a result, Shankland's king was walking into a check and he would have to make the only legal move available, whereupon a drawn position went back to being lost.

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

India looks to seal the series

Action moves to the US; team management prepares to firm up Asia Cup squad

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
FORT LAUDERHILL (USA)

Shreyas Iyer's performance will be under intense scrutiny as India gears up for the back-to-back T20I games against the West Indies, starting here on Saturday, with the twin objective of sealing the series and also firming up the squad for the T20 World Cup.

India leads the five-match series 2-1 and nothing would be more satisfying than a couple of thumping wins in front of the Indian diaspora in the USA.

Testing times: Shreyas will have to prove his worth to the team after a rather ordinary run. • AFP

Hooda hovers

In the current India set-up, if there is one man whose performance will be monitored more than anyone else, it has to be Shreyas. Deepak Hooda, who has used most of the opportunities handed to him, looks good to pip Shreyas as far as the big ticket T20 World Cup berth is concerned.

With K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli all set to be back in the playing eleven for the Asia Cup, time is running out for the 27-year-old Mumbaikar, who has had scores of 0, 10 and 24 in the ongoing series. He looked distinctly uncomfortable against fast and rising deliveries.

In Rahul Dravid's regime so far, no player has got a raw deal in terms of chances. Shreyas has had nine T20I games in the last two-and-a-half months and there hasn't been a single fifty-plus score.

Suryakumar Yadav, whose shot-making has left everyone wide-eyed, is expected to have skipper Rohit Sharma for company at the top of the order. In the third game, Rohit was forced to retire hurt with a back spasm.

The India captain would like to continue his recent good form and positive intent in the two remaining games while having the best seat to judge the form of some of his batters.

Harshal yet to recover

Avesh Khan, meanwhile, has been taken to the cleaners, but Dravid and Rohit have no other option but to continue with him as Harshal Patel hasn't fully recovered from his rib-cage injury.

It will be interesting to see whether Kuldeep Yadav gets a game and India plays an extra spinner in case Harshal isn't fit.

The teams:

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Dinesh Karthik, Sanju Samson, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, R. Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Bhuvneswar Kumar and Harshal Patel.

West Indies: Nicholas Pooran (Capt.), Rovman Powell, Shamarh Brooks, Dominic Drakes, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Obed McCoy, Keemo Paul, Romario Shepherd, Odean Smith, Devon Thomas and Hayden Walsh.

Match starts at 8 p.m. IST.

India trounces Bangladesh, clinches title

SAFF U-20

SPORTS BUREAU

India trounced Bangladesh 5-2 in the final n front of a roaring Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar to clinch the SAFF under-20 title on Friday.

Gurkirat Singh scored four goals in the summit clash, finishing as the tournament's top scorer with eight. Himangshu Jangra netted the other goal. Rajon Howladar and Shahin Mia found the target for Bangladesh.

India took the lead in the first minute after the Bangladesh 'keeper Asif brought down Gurkirat inside the box.

Gurkirat went on to score three more goals. His fourth strike came off a shot from a distance, the ball flying over Asif's head into the net.

Though Bangladesh led 2-1 at one stage, it couldn't sustain the momentum.

Sehrawat the most expensive player in history

Thalaivas sign him for ₹2.26 crore

PKL

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Pawan Sehrawat emerged as the most expensive player in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), attracting a bid of ₹2.26 crore from Tamil Thalaivas on Friday, the first day of the player auction.

While Vikash Khandola (₹1.70 crore, Bengaluru Bulls) – whose joy of earning the highest bid lasted barely few minutes – and Fazel Atrachali of Iran (₹1.38 crore, Puneri Paltan), the most expensive overseas signing in the PKL, were the others who fetched big bids.

Sehrawat stole the show by breaching the ₹2 crore mark. Thalaivas and U Mumba were keen on signing the celebrated raider. Haryana Steelers started the bidding with ₹1 crore (base price: ₹30 lakh) before Thalaivas entered the fray late and walked away with Sehrawat's signature.

Pardeep stays at Yoddha

Pardeep Narwal, whose record of ₹1.65 crore was overtaken twice during the day, was retained by UP Yoddhas with a Final Bid Match process for ₹90 lakh.

Yoddhas seemed to have achieved its objective of price correction with regard to the reliable raider. Atrachali will be joined by Iran teammate Mohammad Nabibakhsh at Puneri Paltan which bought him for ₹87 lakh.

In the zone: Sherawat sparked a bidding war before Thalaivas won the battle. • FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

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